

HOME NEWS

Councils warned on suspect roofs after school collapse

Local authorities and building owners have been warned that buildings with a roof similar to that which collapsed at a London school must be regarded as suspect and should be either repaired or made temporarily safe.

Patients sit in over action by nurses

From Our Correspondent Raywards Heath Thirty patients at St Francis Hospital, Raywards Heath, where 250 nurses are taking industrial action over their pay claim, staged a sit-down protest yesterday.

Bipartisan policy on Northern Ireland battered but intact

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff The bipartisan policy pursued in Westminster on Northern Ireland was looking distinctly battered, although still intact, last night with a two-day emergency debate in the Commons due next week, there was overt criticism from all three parties of some of the attitudes adopted by the Government.

of all that the kind of address Mr Wilson saw fit to make last Saturday was to deliver a couple of grace to power sharing. If political leaders are so misinterpreted the nature of the people of Northern Ireland, how in the world can we expect patience and sympathy from our own people?

"The second lesson is that one should not underestimate the strength of feeling of the Protestant majority. The third is that one should never seek to ignore, or circumvent, or frustrate the democratic verdict of the people. One can imagine what would have happened in Britain if Mr Heath had refused to resign, despite the clear rejection of his policies by the electorate."

Nationalism recognized as a major force

Continued from page 1 that the three loyalists foresee a consultative assembly in which only Ulstermen would talk together.



Mr Rees at a press conference at Stormont Castle yesterday, when he acknowledged that Ulster nationalism is now a major force in the province.

Mr Powell and MP flying to see 'loyalists'

From Stewart Tendler Belfast Mr Enoch Powell and Mr Tam Dalyell, two politicians whose views on the future of Northern Ireland have caused controversy, are flying to Ulster to meet the men who brought down the power sharing Executive.

Mr Powell on his visit to Northern Ireland will meet Mr Henry West, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, and other political figures.

Oil refinery strike begins to bite

From Ronald Faux Edinburgh The jobs of thousands of workers in Scotland may depend on meetings this weekend between the two sides in the unofficial strike at the BP Grangemouth oil refinery.

Way is open for end to Nalogo action

By Raymond Perman Labour Staff The way was opened last night for an end to the industrial action by 1,000 members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association over London weighting allowances.

Peerage for Mrs Williams indefensible, MP says

By George Clark Political Correspondent The award of a life peerage to Mrs Marcia Williams, Mr Wilson's personal and political secretary, has attracted serious criticism.

Weather forecast and recordings

Table with weather forecast and recordings for various locations including London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.

Jury stops trial and acquits detective on bribe charge

A Central Criminal Court jury yesterday stopped the trial of Detective Constable Paul Jones, aged 32, of Perry Walk, Shirley, Surrey, and found him not guilty of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice corruptly accepting £350 or attempting corruptly to accept a bribe.

Soldier allowed to keep gun that killed his mother

Private Kevin Parsons, aged 19, was yesterday allowed to keep the pistol with which he shot dead his mother in an accident while on leave from Northern Ireland.

Overpayments to 100 lecturers

Nearly a hundred college lecturers in Nottingham who have been overpaid by mistake for the past three years are likely to be allowed to keep the money amounting to several thousand pounds.

Women invade the 'Naval and Military' world

By Philip Howard From today women become as nearly as they are ever likely to be members of the Naval and Military Club, the masculine enclave in Piccadilly known familiarly to military wits as the "In and Out", because of the signs on its twin doors.

Blended butter prices will be allowed to rise

The Government has yielded to pressure from butter blenders by allowing them to raise prices without asking the Price Commission to accept them.

The mind of a modern Machiavelli

The Israel-Syria settlement is apparently another Kissinger peace-making miracle. How are they performed? Tomorrow The Sunday Times publishes an intimate account of how Dr Kissinger caricatured the peace States from Vietnam; the peace may be a sham, but the full story of Dr Kissinger's role reveals a fascinating diplomatic style, shot through with secrecy and ambiguity, in which he brilliantly manipulates friend and foe alike.

Emergency landing

A Dan-Air Skyways Boeing 727, carrying 115 holidaymakers from Manchester to Malaga, made an emergency landing at Gatwick airport yesterday after an engine cowling fell off.

At the resorts

Table with resort information including location, dates, and prices for various holiday spots.

HOME NEWS

New screening method is aid to earlier diagnosis of cancer

By Pearce Wright
Science Correspondent

A new ultrasonic method of making early diagnosis of cancer by obtaining shaded pictures from echo patterns has been developed by the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden Hospital, London. A report from the two organisations, yesterday describes the technique as a big advance in cancer screening.

Fifteen patients a day can be examined to look for tumour formations as small as two to five millimetres in diameter, which are too difficult to identify by X-ray or other methods.

A specialist at the Royal Marsden Hospital said that perhaps the greatest advantage was the fact that there was no radiation hazard from the new technique. That allowed repeated use, and meant that regular screening could be done without risk. Ease of use also helped the clinician to monitor regularly the effect of drugs and other treatment.

The system is a development of the ultrasonic technique of bouncing high frequency sound waves from an object to create a picture from the echo pattern. The idea is used in medicine in pregnancy instead of X-ray examinations. However, for this purpose several hundred times larger than the one for cancer screening, and the earlier application was also a straightforward black and white picture formation.

Home rule for Scots 'during next Parliament'

Scotland could have its own government within the lifetime of the next Parliament, Mr William Wolfe, chairman of the Scottish National Party, claimed yesterday.

Speaking at the party's annual conference in Eglis, he said that increasing support for the nationalists proved that a large number of Scots saw no reason for retaining the Westminster connexion.

The discovery of oil had changed Scotland's circumstances and prospects. It had also stimulated a widespread realisation that there were many aspects of life which were being unfairly or unsuitably dealt with from London.

Scottish interests were being systematically ignored and undermined in many ways. They were being identified with English interests and values, whether Scots liked it or not.

If any prediction is fulfilled, the rising tide of support for the SNP will become a tidal wave, and we could win self-government in the life of the next Parliament," Mr Wolfe said.

The party was stronger than it had ever been, with 630,000 votes at the last election.

Mr Wolfe called for the resignation of Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, whose attitude to Scotland and the SNP was "rather old-fashioned and inflexible". He had failed to see that the centralist system of government, which he supported had failed Scotland.



The Queen unveiling a statue of Sir Robert Peel at the new Metropolitan Police training centre named after him in Hendon, London, yesterday.

Union rejects Murray appeal on pensions

By Alan Hamilton
Labour Staff

Civil Service union leaders yesterday rejected an appeal from Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, to call off their ban on all work connected with the forthcoming increases in pensions. Higher old age pensions and other social security benefits, due to be introduced on July 22, will almost certainly be delayed.

Mr Murray called in leaders of the Civil and Public Services Association to tell them that there was great concern throughout the trade union movement at the association's action; the movement attached the highest priority to improved pensions, Mr Murray said.

But the CPSA leaders told Mr Murray they intended to proceed with their ban. They are seeking another meeting with Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, at which they will repeat their demand for increased payments to compensate for the extra work involved in preparing the pension changes at short notice.

But the union has agreed to report Mr Murray's views in a circular to all its 208,000 members which was being prepared last night.

Mr William Kendall, general secretary of the union, said after his meeting with Mr Murray that the Department of Health and Social Security was chronically understaffed, social security legislation was constantly being changed, and the government decision to increase pensions, with its attendant extra workload, was the last straw.

He had pointed out to Mr Murray that the union leadership was tied by the democratic decisions of its social security members to proceed with the ban. Only a cash offer from the department would persuade them to call it off.

Mr Kendall said his members' difficulties were in part the outcome of previous occasions when department staff had been required to work excessive overtime to meet government changes in social security benefits.

The TUC general secretary had earlier told the union's leaders that he could understand their sense of frustration and the need to ensure that similar difficulties were avoided in future by improving arrangements, including an increase in the number of staff. But he pointed out that many of the association's demands were already in process of being met.

The department has offered the 50,000 social security staff involved in the changes extra time off to compensate for the long periods of overtime they will have to work to complete the changes, but this has been rejected.

Even if the ban were called off immediately, the association does not believe there is any possibility of the new pension payments being ready for July 22.

The CPSA is to be called next week to give an account of its action before the TUC's inner cabinet, the finance and general purposes committee.

Cooler weather will cut the hay fever season

By a Staff Reporter

The London pollen count, which warns hay fever sufferers of the amount of pollen in the air, begins on Monday. The Asthma Research Council will issue daily counts and forecasts to newspapers, radio, television and the telephone service in London and the Home Counties.

Dr Roland Davies, head of the mycology department at St Mary's Hospital medical school, Paddington, said yesterday that the hay fever season this year would be shorter than usual because the recent cool weather had retarded grass pollen. Thus it was unlikely there would be a high count before June 10 and there would be very little pollen in the air after about the third week in July.

Dr Davies pointed out that the London and Home Counties count and forecast for the rest of any particular day could be taken as a good guide for the rest of Britain unless an individual area had a lot of rain.

Many people have suffered severe hay fever symptoms during May, the Asthma Research Council says, but this has probably been due to pollen from trees such as the plane and hawthorn. To those who ask if there are any holiday areas in Britain where they can escape pollen, the council said:

"Where there is grass there is pollen. The pollen can be blown by the wind for long distances, from countryside to distant towns and cities, so the air over almost the entire country contains some pollen during the season." Grass pollen was the commonest cause of hay fever.

The forecasts enable victims to seek medical advice about increasing preventive treatment. They can also close windows at home, do shopping in the mornings when the count is lower, and avoid picnics. Wearing spectacles or dark glasses can also help to protect the eyes from pollen, Dr Davies said.

The telephone number to call for the pollen count is 01-246 8091, which also gives the weather forecast.

Up before dawn tomorrow for the bird chorus

By a Staff Reporter

Tomorrow bird-watchers all over Britain will rise before dawn to chart the passage of the dawn chorus as it travels across the country with the increasing light.

The study is part of the annual dawn watches organized since 1933 by Calvert and David Noble-Roblin from the World Bird Research Station in Northumberland.

The direction of the dawn chorus changes with the seasons. At the equinox it moves across Britain from the east. But in June it is expected to travel down from the north-east.

Bird-watchers wishing to take part in the survey should send their results, with a note of the weather and position of observation, to the World Bird Research Station, Glanton, Northumberland.

Police inquiry into hospital hanging deaths

Detectives were making further inquiries into the deaths of three patients at Warlingham Park Mental Hospital, Surrey, Colonel George McEwan, county coroner, said yesterday before adjourning the inquests at Reigate.

Joseph Mark Benjamin, aged 35, Malano Skok, aged 32, and Patrick Michael Tubridy, aged 26, were found hanged at the hospital. Mr Benjamin was found dead on May 24, Mr Skok on May 28, and Mr Tubridy the day after.

After hearing evidence of identification Colonel McEwan said: "On my instructions CID officers are making investigations into these unusual circumstances of three patients in the hospital found dead all by the same means. This is a very unusual occurrence."

Sixty parachutists will compete for titles

By Tony Geraghty

Free fall parachuting, the sport in which the competitors are largely invisible from the ground, begins a tenth annual championship meeting in an obscure part of Oxfordshire tomorrow. No spectators have been invited but if a passer-by happens to wander through the open gates of RAF Weston-on-the-Green, near Middleton Stoney, he will be welcome.

Following practice jumps today, 60 competitors aged between 20 and 42, including at least eight women, will make a total of 780 descents from two veteran Rapide biplanes. There are three team accuracy and individual style, out of which five individual and two team championships will be won.

The accuracy events involve leaving the aircraft from 700 metres (individuals) or 1,000 metres (teams of four), opening the parachute after a short free fall, then attempting a dead centre landing on a 10-centimetre disc in the centre of a gravel landing pit. Notices apart, the competitors must "read the sky" for themselves in deciding at what point they will tell the pilot to cut his engine before clambering on to the Rapide's port wing to begin the fall.

The precise parachute opening point is also left to the individual, who then has to decide whether to run down wind or "put the brakes on" by facing upwind. Modern sport parachute canopies, some of them flat topped and shaped like cheese on toast, are extraordinarily accurate and have swept the American championship board. The overall British champion,

Bob Hiatt, won his title with such a canopy last year.

In the style event the emphasis is on what happens before the "rig" is opened during the 30-second free fall from 2,000 metres. In this the competitor has to perform a programme of left and right turns, back loops and barrel rolls, stopping each individual manoeuvre to face in his original direction, while falling at terminal velocity of around 120 mph.

The event is one in which the invisibility of sport parachuting is most apparent. There are times when even the judges, studying each performance from the ground through powerful telescopes, have been known to lose someone in the high altitude haze.

Few surprises are expected in the men's events this year. Hiatt is defending his title.

The outcome of the women's title is more open. No entry had been received late this week from the reigning ladies' champion, Catherine Burroughs. The dedication of Tracy Rixon, a petite brunette who, like many parachutes, puts her sport before a career, makes her a formidable challenger. Another serious contender is "Libby" Davies, an attractive member of the Foreign Office staff.

In the team section the composition of the Parachute Regiment's Red Devils is a closely guarded secret, apparently for tactical reasons. A more open "novices' class, which removes the minimum entry qualification of 50 descents, has attracted 20 competitors this year, including The Times correspondent, compared with five in 1973.

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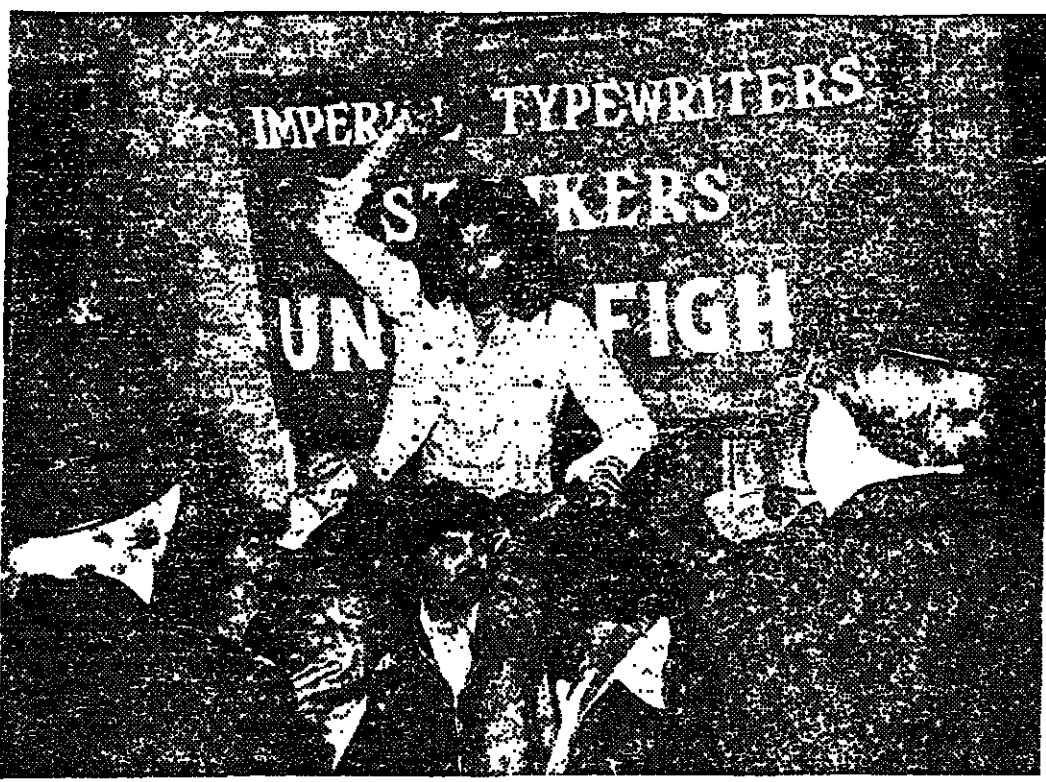
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HOME NEWS



Asian strikers from the Imperial typewriter factory, Leicester, demonstrating outside the headquarters of the Transport and General Workers' Union in London yesterday, demanding union backing.

Mr Jones to decide on inquiry by union into strike of Asians

By David Leigh
Mr Jack Jones, the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, is to decide next week whether to hold a union inquiry into the Imperial typewriter factory dispute at Leicester, where 400 Asian workers have been on strike for a month.

Mr Moss Evans, national organizer of the union, said this yesterday after 300 of the strikers demonstrated outside the union headquarters in London demanding official backing for their strike.

Mr Evans said a deputation of three of the demonstrators and they said later he told them a decision on whether to make the strike official would be made on Monday. Mr Evans also told them that there would be an inquiry into the Leicester strikers' handling of the dispute, they said.

Injunction given on TV rights in boxing match

By Neil Allen
Boxing Correspondent
A High Court injunction was granted in chambers in London yesterday preventing any further announcements about the £500,000 British and European closed-circuit television rights of the world heavyweight boxing championship match between George Foreman, the champion, and Muhammad Ali in Kinshasa, Zaire, on September 25.

Chancellor to blame for price rises—Mr Whitelaw

Mr William Whitelaw last night accused the Government of "trying to lull us into a false sense of security about our economic difficulties".
The opposition spokesman on employment said in his Peurth and Border constituency that the Government hoped people would forget Mr Healey's Budget, but last week's announcement of an enormous rise in the monthly cost-of-living index should have destroyed that illusion.

Ford shop steward fined £50 for Co-op theft

Sidney Harraway, the trade unionist, was fined £50, with £50 costs, after being convicted of stealing a tin of marmalade from a shop steward at the Dagenham works of the Ford Motor Company, had denied stealing goods valued at £5.06 from a Co-op store last Christmas Eve.

Archaeology report Stonehenge: 'A geometrical monument'

Stonehenge is not only an astronomical observatory, but also a monument constructed by a folk using giant ellipses, spirals and circles laid out on the ground, according to Professor Thom, who has recently made a survey of the site.
Stonehenge consists of the well known sarsen circle, with its great horseshoe of sarsen trilithons and the incomplete rings of bluestones, and itself enclosed within three rings of holes dug into the chalk, the Avenue, and the Y and Z holes close in and the Aubrey holes just inside the bank and ditch; this latter is interrupted on the north-east by the 'Avenue' which leads into the site.

WEST EUROPE

President Giscard and Herr Schmidt tackle EEC issues together

From Richard Wigg
Paris, May 31
M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing began his first conversations with a European Community partner since taking office as president of France when he welcomed Herr Helmut Schmidt, West German Chancellor, at the Elysée this evening.
Herr Schmidt had arrived late from Bonn and the two men's talks alone began immediately. Devoted chiefly to finding ways to overcome the Community's most pressing economic problems, they went on through a dinner tonight at which M Jean Sauvagnargues, France's new Foreign Minister, was brought in. The discussions, which may be continued tomorrow morning, will be kept within an extremely restricted group as the two men are joined only by one or two of their most senior officials.

French in tackling the widening gap between the two countries' economic performances—West Germany with exports expanding 32 per cent in the first four months of this year and building up reserves now four times those of the chief European trading partners, and France forecasting a mounting balance of payments deficit for the end of the year.
M Paul Laubard, a leading businessman, who is president of the Paris chamber of industry and commerce, has already recommended openly that West Germany should find ways to favour French exports, while avoiding restraining domestic demand so as to help right France's worsening trading position.

Arms ban could hit French exports

From Richard Wigg
Paris, May 31
President Giscard d'Estaing's promise to ban all arms sales that would contradict France's liberal image "would appear to be clear enough.
However, the French arms industry has made a substantial contribution to exports during the past two or three years. If the promise were to be widely implemented it would mean the loss of export markets needed more than ever now in order to pay for dearer imports of fuel and raw materials and it might threaten jobs.

OVERSEAS

Ottawa angrily hits back at Delhi's surprise nuclear test

From Our Correspondent
Ottawa, May 31
Relations between Canada and India, once marked by an exceptional warmth, have dipped to their lowest point as the result of India's entry into the international nuclear club.
Probably in no world capital, with the possible exception of Islamabad, was the reaction to the news of the test any harsher than in Ottawa. Here the reason is a strong suspicion here—even an assumption—that India used nuclear know-how acquired from Canada to fashion the device that was exploded in the Rajasthan desert on May 18.

"We don't know their intention at all," he told reporters. "We are very disappointed that India has spent all this money on brains in order to explode a bomb when their people are starving."
In retaliation, parts of the Indian press have been lambasting Ottawa's attitude. One Indian news agency commented that the old relationship between the two countries had in reality never been smooth and alleged that Canada had sought "hard" terms in its nuclear dealings with India.
From the stream of Canadian government statements, it has emerged that Mr Trudeau attempted unsuccessfully as long ago as 1971 to get from Mrs Gandhi an undertaking that India would not develop a nuclear device. He says warning that Canada would reassess its programme of nuclear help if India did build one.



M Sauvagnargues (left), the French Foreign Minister, talking to Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, at Orly airport.

General Spinoza again warns the extremists

Lisbon, May 31.—President Spinoza tonight warned Portugal against sliding into chaos and civil disorder which could lead to right-wing dictatorship.
The President, who is head of the military junta, said that freedom must not mean a weakening of law and order. He was speaking at the swearing-in of the 21-man Council of State.

Spanish air threat to Gibraltar

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, May 31
As the first round of a new series of Anglo-Spanish talks on Gibraltar ended in Madrid today, General Franco and his Cabinet discussed plans to build a big commercial airport at Caselle de la Frontera, only nine miles from the Rock. The new airport would create serious air traffic control problems for the Gibraltar air strip, which is already awkwardly situated as the neck of the peninsula.

Gaullist 'eminence grise' loses his African post

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, May 31
M Jacques Foccart, who was often regarded during the Gaullist era as the 'eminence grise' of France's African policy, has been relieved of his post as Secretary-General for African and Malagasy Affairs by President Giscard d'Estaing's Order.
It hardly needed M Pierre Abelin, the new Minister of Co-operation, to declare today that France's policy towards the French-speaking African nations is to be "rethought" to underline that M Foccart's departure represents another break with the Gaullist secretariat which has been taken over by the new Ministry.

Poster attacks on Chinese official with Heath group

From David Bonavia
Kunming, China, May 31
A leading member of the Yunnan provincial administration was under a political attack here today even as he accompanied Mr Edward Heath's party on an excursion.
Large posters in Kunming criticized Mr Chen Kang, vice-chairman of the provincial revolutionary committee. The posters were clearly visible along the route which the cars carrying the British party and Mr Chen himself took through the city.

Italian police discover plot to blow up President

From Our Correspondent
Rome, May 31
Police today raided the homes of right-wing extremists in Rome and Milan after reports that they might attempt to blow up the president during his visit to the city.
Police and Carabinieri have neither confirmed nor denied reports in several newspapers that two of the men claimed that an unnamed person had offered them 400 million (about £260,000) to make it attack.

Madrid court's threat to police immunity

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, May 31
The decision of a military court in Madrid today suggests that the police and the armed forces are no longer immune from criminal investigations in cases involving the deaths of civilians.
A court martial acquitted a Madrid lawyer, Señor Jaime Miralles, on a charge of insulting the armed forces because he had challenged an official report on a worker who was shot dead by the police.

Defeated Australian leader blames 'donkey vote'

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, May 31
Mr Billy Snedden, the Australian Opposition leader, moved today to blame the split in the Victorian branch of the Liberal Party after the general election defeat this month. In telegrams sent to members of the federal parliamentary Liberal Party and to state Liberal presidents, Mr Snedden appealed to all elements to avoid recriminations.
He himself blames the "donkey vote" in part for the failure of the Liberal-Country Party coalition to win the election.
"If David Harner had dropped the E from his name and been Pedro Pantoja, we would still hold Isaac," the Snedden said. He also said that in other seats the "donkey vote" operated in favour of Liberal candidates.

100 children hurt in motorway crash

Stuttgart, May 31.—Two people in a private car were killed and 100 children were injured today when the car and two school buses were in collision on the Stuttgart to Karlsruhe motorway. —Agence France-Press.

Fungicides blamed for Italian poisonings

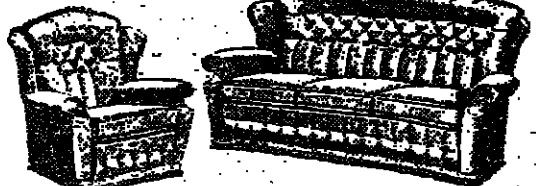
Bergamo, Northern Italy, May 31.—Fungicides used by a farming family in the San Martino valley near here are believed to have contaminated their food, killing three people in under 20 days. —Agence France-Press.

Postal and weekend shopping

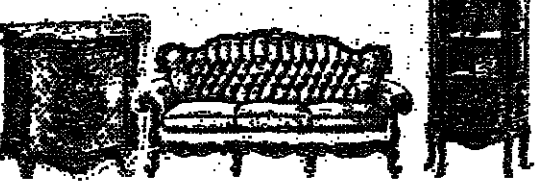
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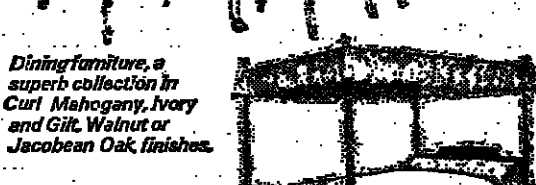
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The fashion for Fauntleroy

by Ann Thwaite

Little Lord Fauntleroy was first published as a book in October, 1886, after serialization in *St Nicholas Magazine*. "Mrs Burnett's juvenile starts with a tremendous rush", her publisher Charles Scribner reported. They had to reprint before publication was 10,000. The reviews were ecstatic, and far more sickly than the book itself. Louisa M. Alcott, for instance, rejoiced that America's best and brightest was consecrating her talents to the useful and beautiful work of writing for children, but emphasized that "grown people" as much as children would enjoy the book.

The story of the reformation of an arrogant aristocrat by his republican grandson has obvious appeal. The idea had come to Frances when her son Vivian, aged eight, had asked: "When a person is a duke, what makes him one?" He seemed to imagine a dukedom must be a reward "for superhuman sweetness of character and brilliant intellectual capacity". She started imagining what impression an English aristocrat would make on a small American boy, brought up to believe in equality. The appeal of the story is marvellously double-edged. The reader can have it both ways. He can enjoy descriptions of aristocratic luxury while sharing Cedric's belief that Mr Hobbs, the grocer, is every bit as important as an earl.

All over America, men, women and children followed Cedric's adventures. One social historian has commented: "It does not do to say merely that *Little Lord Fauntleroy* was a great success. It caused a public delirium of joy." A year after publication, 43,000 copies were in print. Two years later, sales soared higher and higher—under the influence of Frances's own triumphant dramatization of the book, and the lawsuit she brought to drive from the stage a rival *Fauntleroy*. It became one of the biggest sellers of all time, selling over a million copies in English alone, and being translated into more than a dozen languages. It made Frances at least a hundred thousand dollars in her lifetime. She had produced a book which fitted perfectly the taste of the time.

Frances had started off as an extreme realist by the standards of the day; now she became identified as a romantic. It was the age of escapism. In England it was the heyday of Andrew Lang. His influence as a critic was enormous. There was a craving for escape from life and no aesthetic encouragement to face it. Lang preferred Rider Haggard and Anthony Hope to Hardy and Henry James, Stevenson to Dostoevsky. And thousands, hundreds of thousands of people on both sides of the Atlantic agreed with him.

It was in 1886 that Lemuel Bangs, Scribner's agent in England, attempting to introduce a little realism into the list, was told by Charles Scribner to "let up on the nasty books". A list of the best selling novels in these years is very revealing: 1884: *Heidi*; *Treasure Island*. 1885: *A Child's Garden of Verses*; *Huckleberry Finn*. 1886: *Little Lord Fauntleroy*; *King Solomon's Mines*; *War and Peace*.

Of these titles, all but one would now be considered children's books. At that time there was no rigid demarcation line between adult and children's literature. Publishers did not have special children's departments. There were no children's libraries. Reviews of children's

books were not confined to separate supplements; they frequently contained phrases such as, "It will delight all children between the ages of six and sixty" or "Grown-up readers will be as much delighted as the younger ones". Swinburne, writing on Mrs Molesworth in the *Nineteenth Century* in 1885, was to say: "Our own age is fortunate. . . Any chapter of *The Cuckoo Clock* or the enchanting *Adventures of Herr Baby* is worth a shoal of the very best novels dealing with characters and fortunes of mere adults." Lewis Carroll had had a good deal to do with this. Everyone read *Alice*. Even Henry James, though depressed by the "beastly bloodiness" of *Rider Haggard*, admired *Treasure Island* enormously. His copy of *Kidnapped* is heavily annotated. The taste of the general public accorded neatly on the whole with what was considered suitable for children; when *Huckleberry Finn* was serialized in the *Century*, the editor deleted, with the author's agreement, all references to nakedness, blasphemy, smells and dead cats.

Frances spent the winter of 1887-88 in Florence. So did Gladstone. Her friend Henry James had recently called him "a dreary incubus", mouthing platitudes. Frances found the Prime Minister's words delightful. Would she have found them quite so delightful if they had been spoken by the grocer in Washington? In theory Frances was a passionate egalitarian. It had been her great strength, her concern for the people, the poor. And certainly she continued to be always interested in ordinary people; but she was becoming more and more often seduced by labels and titles. To Henry James, Wilde might be famous and Gladstone dreary; to Frances their glamour and fame made them both inevitably delightful.

The Prime Minister had apparently asked his friend Janet Ross if she knew Mrs Burnett; he wanted to meet her. Accordingly, just as James had been the winter before, Frances was invited to the villa at Castagnolo. She described the meeting in a letter:

I find Prime Ministers agree with me. He is a fascinating old man, and said the most lovely things. *Fauntleroy* has charmed him—he told me he believed the book would have great effect in bringing about a better feeling between the two nations and making them understand each other. He and Mrs Gladstone and his son and two daughters and the Duchess of Sermoneta went out to the villa— which is seven or eight miles from Florence—in the train, which, finding itself overweighed with the Irish Question and so much Statesmanship, promptly broke down about two miles away from the house, landing the party in the road—at least, placing them there. I am not fond of trains, and had driven out in a victoria with two horses; and so my carriage went to pick them up—all of them it could carry—the rest came in Mrs Ross' dogcart. Afterwards I took Mr and Mrs Gladstone home, and it was a lovely drive. . . Mrs Gladstone is coming to see me and she asked me to let them know when I arrive in London. But there is no record of any further meeting. Frances returned to London much earlier than she had expected, and in circumstances which made it difficult to follow up even an acquaintance with the Prime Minister.

She had had an obsequious, flattering letter from a man signing himself E. V. Seeböhm, who had made a play from *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. "I sincerely trust", he wrote, "that I have



Frances Hodgson Burnett in "Men and Women of the Day", 1888

Frances Hodgson Burnett died 50 years ago, just before her 75th birthday. Her first stories were published in American women's magazines in the 1860s, soon after her arrival in Tennessee as a young emigrant from Manchester. During her long writing life she wrote hundreds of stories, more than 50 books, and a dozen plays. Her adult books are nearly all forgotten, but a number of her stories for children are still read and loved. When some children's writers were recently asked to choose the favourite book of their own childhood, again and again they named 'The Secret Garden'. 'The Secret Garden' was written towards the end of Mrs Burnett's life. It

was an earlier success, 'Little Lord Fauntleroy', which dominated and changed that life. Though she later wrote some extremely successful adult novels, such as 'The Shuttle' and 'T. Tembarom', she was no longer prepared to work with the self-control and subtlety of her early novels which had earned her comparison with George Eliot and Henry James. Fauntleroy made her rich and moved her across that faint frontier between literature and popular writing. His name is more famous than hers. When Robert Robinson asked some 'Brains of Britain' who created him, each was amazed at his own ignorance. Mrs Hemans? Charlotte M. Yonge? No one was sure. To most people, he is a name in a velvet suit with a lace collar.

written nothing that could cast a slur on one of the most beautiful stories it has ever been my pleasure to read." His compliments cut no ice with Frances. It had been bad enough when unauthorized plays had been made from *Thou Lass O'Lowrie's* and *Edith's Burglar*, but *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, her most valuable property, had to be fought for. The difficulty was that Seeböhm was technically acting perfectly legally as the law stood at that time.

He went to Florence to try to persuade her to let him go ahead, but she had just left. He followed her and they met briefly on the railway station at Turin. It was their only meeting. Frances refused to accept any of his suggestions for collaboration and profit sharing. He hurried back to launch his play before Frances had a chance to produce a rival version.

Frances travelled to England with her companion Miss Chielini "and a generous supply of

manuscript paper, pencils and ink", and started her dramatization on the train. A good proportion of it was finished when she arrived in London. She had decided not only to see for herself what Seeböhm had written but to follow it up as rapidly as possible with *The Real Little Lord Fauntleroy*.

Seeböhm's play was produced



Above: Buster Keaton, aged ten, on tour in New England as *Fauntleroy*

at the Prince of Wales Theatre, London, on February 23, 1888. Frances was already in consultation with Kaye and Guedalla, a firm of solicitors. The case, with Warne, the English publishers, named as plaintiffs, was heard in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on March 24. Not all the press comment was entirely favourable. The *Era*, the stage paper, said: "If Mrs Burnett thought that *Little Lord Fauntleroy* was worth preserving from the adaptor, why did she not secure it in the legal way? A copyright performance can be easily done for about £20, a mere trifle to a successful lady novelist." Surely, it said, she could not really have believed herself protected by ALL RIGHTS RESERVED on the title-page? "We are not inclined to take a sentimental view of the grievances of adapted novelists, who get an excellent advertisement, by the

Left: Freddie Bartholomew in the 1936 film of 'Little Lord Fauntleroy'

way, out of the fuss over their sufferings. But we are willing to wax as indignant as their most enthusiastic champion could desire at the existing state of the law. . . Why do the novelists not all 'pull together', agitate fiercely and get the law altered?" But Seeböhm lost any sympathy there might have been for him by claiming that his play was only "suggested" by Mrs Burnett's book, whereas it turned out that plot, characters and dialogue had all been lifted bodily.

The novelists did not "pull together" to get the law altered. Frances—with her solicitors and counsel—did it on her own. The plaintiffs decided to base their case on an infringement of the Copyright Act of 1842, which forbade the making of copies of copyright material.

Seeböhm had admitted the existence of four copies of the play, one of which had been deposited at the office of the Lord Chamberlain. A previous case had held that the mere representation on the stage of a play did not infringe the Copyright Act, "but representation was one thing and copying another". Seeböhm might have the right, under the law as it stood, to represent the novel on the stage; but he had no right to make copies of any parts of the book.

The case showed the law to be an ass. "If being granted that it was not illegal to dramatize the story of another person, could it be contended that for this purpose the dramatizer could not write a single copy of his play without infringing copyright in the story—but must commit the whole to memory and impart it to the actors by word of mouth?" Defendants' counsel could not believe this was reasonable. Mr Justice Stirling, in giving judgment, said a lot of the play had been extracted almost verbatim from the book—more than one quarter of the lines in the first act alone. "I think that what has been done and is intended to be done by the defendant constitutes an infringement of the plaintiff's legal rights no less than if the defendant had published his play. I grant a perpetual injunction to restrain the defendant from multiplying copies of his play. The plaintiffs further insist on an order directing the delivery up of the existing copies of the play. . . the costs of the action must be paid by the defendant."

Victory was total. It was not possible for a play to be licensed unless a copy was lodged with the Lord Chamberlain, and unauthorized dramatists would no longer be able to lodge copies with the Lord Chamberlain. Judgment was delivered on May 10 and Frances' own play was ready to open on May 14 at Terry's Theatre.

The next day's *Times* was enthusiastic. A few months later, just before her return to America, Frances was presented with a magnificent diamond bracelet inscribed "To Frances Hodgson Burnett, with the gratitude of British Authors". There was a diamond ring to match and a parchment scroll, illuminated with the names of those who had helped to make the gift.

"The under-mentioned Men and Women of Letters desire to express to Mrs Frances Hodgson Burnett their appreciation of the great service they believe she has rendered to British Authors by so strongly attracting public attention to the unsatisfactory condition of Copyright Law in England. . . Eighty-four writers associated themselves with the address and the "accompanying Souvenir", including Ralph Abercrombie, Rider Haggard, F. Anstey, George Meredith, Arthur W. Pinero and Oscar Wilde.

On her arrival in the United States, she found the newspapers full not only of the success of her play, which had opened at the Boston Museum Theatre on September 10, but also of the death of E. V. Seeböhm, which seemed to be a result of that success. The *Journal Spirit of the Times* reported the story like this:

London tailor's tab in the pocket of his overcoat was written the name of E. V. Seeböhm. It will be remembered that Mr Seeböhm dramatized *Little Lord Fauntleroy* in London, and was stopped by an injunction. He then left England for a tour round the world.

Frances was mobbed by reporters on the docks. "You want me to talk about Mr Seeböhm", she said, "and I do not want to talk of him, now that he is supposed to be dead. . . From my brief acquaintance, I should not imagine that he was a man to commit suicide. It is much easier for me to believe that he was murdered even than that he should have destroyed himself." It was an unpleasant business; she did not let herself dwell on it.

She went straight to Boston and was delighted with Elsie Leslie's performance as *Fauntleroy* and with the production: the settings were more lavish than in London. Everyone was delighted with the play. Oliver Wendell Holmes, nearly 80 and much honoured, wrote from his house on Beacon Street: "We had a most delightfully memorable evening, though we were all crying like babies half the time. The tears that will not flow for real grief will sometimes come unbidden at the call of the writer of fiction who knows the human heart, and has access to its fountains."

The first night in New York was on December 3, 1888, and the success in London and Boston was repeated. It was now that the fashion for *Little Lord Fauntleroy* suits boomed. All over America, reluctant small boys were forced by their mothers into black velvet suits with lace collars and other outfits based on Cedric's clothes. In Davenport, Iowa, an eight-year-old burnt down his father's barn in protest at being dressed as *Fauntleroy*. In Worcester, Massachusetts, a boy traded his suit for some old patched clothes belonging to a gypsy. In New York it was reported that Stephen Crane gave money to two small boys and sent them to have their curls cut off; one mother went into hysterics, the other fainted. Irving Cobb, in his fictionalized memories of his childhood, published in 1924, gives an exaggerated graphic account in a chapter called *Little Short Fauntleroy*: "A mania was laying hold on the mothers of the nation. It was a mania for making over their growing sons after the likeness of a beaurefic image. *Little Lord Fauntleroy* infected thousands of the worthy matrons of America with a catching lunacy, which raged like a sedge fire and left enduring scars upon the sacred memories of its chief sufferers."

It was not only in America that the fashion caught on. Compton Mackenzie recalled "that confounded *Little Lord Fauntleroy* craze, which led to my being given as a party dress the *Fauntleroy* costume of black velvet and Vandyke collar. . . the other boys at the dancing class were all in white tops (sailor suits)". Sir Adrian Boult recorded that the fashion was regarded then as first class, consoling some of them, I suppose, about 1894 or '95. In Russia, Elizabeth Fen wished for curly hair like Cedric's and wore a boy's black velvet suit and a black velvet hat with a big feather. "People stared when I rode through the village. This rather embarrassed me, but I enjoyed it all the same."

It was not only *Fauntleroy* clothes which sold; there were *Fauntleroy* playing-cards, *Fauntleroy* writing-paper and toys and models of every sort, wooden, plaster, clockwork and porcelain. There was even a perfume named after him. In December, Scribner reported to Frances the extraordinary continuing demand for the book: "It surpasses all our expectations." In 1877, Frances had written: "There is no danger of my becoming vain." But now the danger was real.

The illustrations and text are taken from *Waiting for the Party, the life of Frances Hodgson Burnett* by Secker & Warburg, published this week at £3.50. An exhibition devoted to Frances Hodgson Burnett is now showing at Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge, Kent, the home of Lord De L'Isle, VC.

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Jim Sharman's last tango in Nashville: the electricity of words and images

The three most influential stage musicals over the last ten years, arguably over the last twenty, have been Hair, Jesus Christ Superstar and The Rocky Horror Show.



Photograph by Warren Harrison

It will not be the first time that the play has been seen in London: Charles Marowitz did a production at the Open Space two years ago and since then it has been seen elsewhere, most notably in Bristol.

Tango in Nashville" but it's also a thriller and that's what matters most. Now, too, it's more accessible to an audience than when he first wrote it—after all, we've come through A Clockwork Orange and American Graffiti since then.

Then in 1966, when discotheques had just hit Australia, I thought I'd try a six-hour non-stop entertainment from eight until two in the morning in which disco sessions were interrupted by performances of Genet's The Maids.

about it—including the Hair people who asked me to direct that in Sydney. Hair (which ran for four and a half years in Australia) led to Jesus Christ Superstar and Sharman's partnership with Brian Thomson who, being an ex-architect, had what Sharman describes as "a healthy contempt" for the idea that scenery is just something in front of which actors act.

Puppets' sentimental fable

Les Veuves Round House Charles Lewsen This new play of Francois Billeloux is presented by a company from l'Espace Pierre Cardin; but there is nothing chic about it, radical or otherwise.

M Billeloux is not, I think, trying to show the New World coming to redress the balance of Old. Certainly Olivier Husson's Uncle, in baggy trousers and shirt, looks like a peasant untouched by life in America; and, save war, the causes of the men's deaths—fear, misery, uncertainty—do not particularly suggest that the political intervention of a Friendly Power is required.

He is about two feet high; the widows are vast creatures manipulating by means of their dwarf. More touching than the rather portentous story are the faces of the operators, with their concerned involvement in the life they stir in their great scarecrows.

Hephzibah Menuhin Queen Elizabeth Hall

She was happiest in Handel's D minor suite at the start. To plunge cold into such an intricate stream of notes, and to discharge them so deftly and translucently, and with such perceptive awareness of points of contrapuntal cunning as well as the expressive and stylistic issues involved, was no small achievement.

Whether she made Mendelssohn's D minor, in the Variations, quite enough of a new romantic world was open to question. No doubt the composer would have preferred Miss Menuhin's fluent understatement to exaggerated contrasts of characterization. But the suspicion remained that she was too inclined to scurry around

with hobgoblins and sprites, not less in No. 11 too fast for clarity, than alone human disquiet. All 36 of Schubert's Waltzes, Op. 9, danced and glistened; a more rustic note here and there might have helped to lighten mood contrasts.

LSO/Groves/Curzon Festival Hall

Alan Blyth Walton was present at the Festival Hall on Thursday to hear the LSO and its chorus revive his In Honour of the City of London, written for Leeds in 1937.

fresh thoughts, its ceaseless praise of the capital allowing him hardly a chance for variety, still less for that sombre vein he was mining so successfully in other works of about the same time. Certainly there was no sign of the "delicacy and economy" in the use of huge forces mentioned in the programme.

better was to come in the effortlessly decorated first episode, and in the perfectly timed conversation with the wind in the finale. Unfortunately he received, by and large, lukewarm support from the orchestra, the contribution of which to the finale was distinctly scrappy.

London's Arcadia Swedenborg Hall

Keith Horner Of the famous musical pleasure gardens of eighteenth century London, only Kew and St. James's Park remain today.

It is an apolitical piece of whimsy, albeit a touch nightmarish when the widows set upon their fallen hero. What gives it such interest as it has is the performance, which offers the boy and the old women in the shape of puppets.

They all have long angular faces and deep-set eyes; the boy is dressed in a black pinstriped costume which set against his face with its expression reminiscent of Marlene Dietrich at her most inscrutable, makes him a striking point of focus for a doomed village.

But it was generally quite harmless. The gilt-framed ecclesiastical dignitaries of the Swedenborg Hall could rest assured for, in the mid-eighteenth century the Vauxhall management found it necessary to reassure their patrons that "even bishops have been seen in this recess without injuring their character."

John C. Bach was the most popular composer for many years of his quartet in D for two flutes, viola and cello, though somewhat limp in performance, made one realize why.

Clive Barnes/New York Notebook

Jim Dale, Broadway's new folk-legend

Perhaps one should apologize for writing again on dance. These days, let me apologise. But currently New York in this changeable spring—a time when the climate takes an erratic course—has been blessed with a few fine films...



The Royal Ballet has just finished in New York and moved over to Washington.

MacMillan must take full credit for the success of many New York ballets—and I do not mean the disturbed people who booted him on the last night of his staged slogs at him at the stage door—there was some thing more quite right. Take Romeo and Juliet. Its title sets well anywhere, and even the Prokofiev music has its slightly shop-soiled charms.

Where MacMillan has won everyone's respect is in the development of the company. The performances that have been remarkable. I have been watching the company, with love, pride and scepticism, for more than 30 years now...

CINEMAS
AS 1. C. E. M. ...
AS 2. C. E. M. ...
AS 3. C. E. M. ...

ART EXHIBITIONS
EXHIBITION: SOME SIGNIFICANT ...
EXHIBITION: SOME SIGNIFICANT ...

Perhaps one should apologize for writing again on dance. These days, let me apologise. But currently New York in this changeable spring...

MINEA
LE TERRAIN DES AUTRES
MINEA
LE TERRAIN DES AUTRES

LASSON GALLERY
LESTYNE GALLERY
LASSON GALLERY
LESTYNE GALLERY

One glorious kick in the behind of the Broadway season has been Frank Dunlop's staging of Scapino for the Young Vic. This has now opened on Broadway with sensational success...

ART EXHIBITIONS
A Loan Exhibition
PETER LARKIN'S
PETER LARKIN'S

RESTAURANTS
BRUSH & PALETTE
BRUSH & PALETTE

Bridge
Time to finesse
I never tire of emphasising how many superfluous finesse are taken. Sometimes it hurts so much to be dummy when the declarer can see only one possible way to his contract...

Chess
Latin lament
It is fascinating to observe the rise and fall, or the reverse, of chess-playing nations. The little become big, or the big dwindle to little...

FOR THE EPICURE

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FLORIAN WINES

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FLORIAN WINE

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THE PHILIP LARKIN POETRY READING

At 11.30. Anthony Thwaite, and Hugh Dickson, at the National Book Centre, 2nd June, 8.30 p.m.

Edward Mayer

WAY DOWN TO DUNDUN...
WAY DOWN TO DUNDUN...
WAY DOWN TO DUNDUN...

White (Olafsson) to play

White (Olafsson) to play
He cannot defend the BP by 27-Kt-K2, on account of 27-Kt-K2 winning a piece.
By Harry Golombek

LOGANVAR SMOKED SALMON

LOGANVAR SMOKED SALMON
Scottish Salmon Smoked in the Scottish way
SASSO OLIVE OIL

Gardening A case for ground cover

You may not have noticed, but in many public parks and open spaces shrubberies are now carpeted with ground cover plants, and beds and borders hitherto filled with bedding plants are either being quietly grassed over or planted with ground covering plants. The reason, of course, is the scarcity and cost of labour for hoeing and general work.

If our native primrose, foxglove, or even the dandelion had been brought back triumphantly by some intrepid plant explorer from the mountains of Tibet, the Royal Horticultural Society would probably have given them a first class certificate.

One of the most effective ground covers is that horrible invasive weed ground elder, or, as it is known in my part of the world, bishop weed. Many years ago my wife and I visited Bishop Hunkin in Truro, a fanatical gardener. Taking me round his garden he pointed to vast areas covered with ground elder and asked me if we had this dreadful weed in Surrey. I said: "Oh yes, bishop weed, it is a big problem." He replied with a twinkle in his eye: "We call it ground elder here."

Again, some years ago, we stayed at an hotel at Les Milandes in the Dordogne. In Beynac, just across the river, I saw an old well, obviously a filled up well, on which was growing an attractive variegated ground elder. A friend found this some variegated ground elder in the garden in the Dordogne, and has a nice patch of it now in the front of his house.

I mention all this because I think we must look at this ground cover problem on a rational basis. Broadly, if we have large areas of bare ground, under shrubs, on banks—areas which need many man hours to keep it hoed and free of weeds, or kept weed free by the application of herbicides, the solution is to choose plants that will spread quickly and smother the weeds.

We have plenty of them. But

it is crucial to get the ground free of weeds before planting the ground cover. The perennial grasses, ground elder and convolvulus are the worst perennial weeds. If they are present I would suggest you kill them now by watering them with paraquat (Weedol) several times if necessary. I have not known any weed that will not succumb to three doses of Weedol. But you must apply it again the moment the weed shows itself above ground again.

The point is that you must not let any foliage grow to nourish the roots. If it is possible to hoe off these weeds every week as soon as any leaves appear, you can soon destroy them. After all, you never see convolvulus in a lawn that is mown every week.

The technique of applying the "killer" immediately after growth appears is, of course, the opposite of that we adopt with selective weedkillers on lawns. With these the idea is to have as large a leaf area on the weeds as possible to transmit it to the root system. That is why it is better to apply a lawn fertilizer when the grass and weeds are growing vigorously, to apply the weedkiller.

But to return to ground cover plants. If we have a ground cover problem it means that we obviously need a great many plants to cover the bare spaces, and this can be an expensive business as most ground cover plants cost anything from 20p to 35p each.

The most economical way is to choose those which spread quickly and which are easy to propagate either by cuttings or by division of the roots.

The forms of *Ajuga reptans* with variously colored leaves, all the periwinkles—either single or double, green or variegated, of *Viola major* and *V. minor*, the lamiums or dead nettles such as *Chequers* or *maculatum roseum*, are excellent, but where there is plenty of room under tall trees or shrubs, *L. galeobdolon* and its variegated form will make a rapid carpet of foliage. I

made the mistake of planting it in one of my rose beds and in no time it was trying to climb the rose bushes. The green and white variety *Chequers* is a much neater plant, and only about two to three inches high, with deep pink flowers.

Many ivy varieties are available for ground cover. They spread fast and may be propagated by cuttings very rapidly. For the milder parts of the country the large leaved ivy *Hedera canariensis variegata*, also known as *Gloire de Marengo*, is one of the best and most attractive for ground cover. It has evergreen leaves edged with silvery grey and white.

But there are many varieties of the hardier ivy *Hedera helix*—*Cavendishii*, with small green and grey leaves, edged with green; *Chicago*, with green out-leaves; *iberica*, the Irish ivy with large dark green leaves, a good ground cover; and *Imp.*, a newcomer from the United States.

An excellent plant to grow under trees is *Pachyandra terminalis* and its variety *Variegata*. It will even grow under a sweet chestnut tree, but it has refused to grow under my sycamore.

When ground covering is a real problem, we must not be too choosy about the plants we use, as long as we smother the weeds as quickly as possible. Let us by all means do this with common ivy, *Hedera*, but I have a large patch of *Cerastium tomentosum* outside our dining room window—its silvery foliage is always attractive, and just now it is a lovely shade of blue. Again, you can propagate it very rapidly by dividing the roots.

The old rose of Sharon, *Hypericum calycinum*, is almost indestructible. It will grow anywhere, and no weed can compete with it. *Arabis*, single or double, and *aubrieta* make nice ground cover, but they do not spread very much.

Roy Hay

Travel Watching the waterhole

built among the trees in the foothills and forests south of Mount Kenya, is one of the never developed for this purpose. A "tree hotel", it is far better equipped to serve the overnight visitor than the description might indicate. Certainly the bar was more than adequate to meet the varied demands of the American group, the food (including fresh lake trout) and wine were of high standard.

The rooms are small—little more than cubicles with bed and washbasin and a verandah overlooking the waterhole—but mine was certainly comfortable and, as the porter continued his chattering journey down the corridor, I took my tea to the verandah and watched the mist roll back to reveal the peak of Mount Kenya, bright with snow and sunshine rising above the trees shrouded hills. For off to the left down the valley, a small group of elephants passed ponderously through the trees.

After breakfast the Americans left for Kilungu Lodge in Tsavo West National Park. "You'll see elephants there," I promised. "There are plenty around."

But how many are "plenty"? Tsavo Park (east and west) is roughly the size of Wales and has an elephant population of around 50,000. Between five and six thousand are believed to have died in the park during the 1971 drought, and Kenya as a whole has some 150,000 elephants. The problem with figures such as these, however, is that we (more used to thinking of wild animals in terms of zoo or circus) cannot readily understand the dangers that threaten them. An area the size of Wales can be over-crowded for its pachyderm population. In Tsavo, the vegetation is suffering because of this. Outside the parks (and in them, too, to a lesser extent) the poachers are

busily killing elephants for ivory, rhinos for horn.

It has been claimed that 15,000 elephants are killed each year by poachers, but the facts will never come to light because of the scene for tourists and game wardens alike. In Tsavo alone there are 26 airstrips.

Another location at Marsabit, a little way from the town over very rough roads, is Paradise Lake which lies, perfectly circular, in the cone of an extinct volcano from whose rim one has a breathtaking view of vast plains and bush. At present it is a tented camp site and no lodge will be built, though some kind of viewing "facility" is to be provided.

From Marsabit we flew south to Meru National Park and Meru Mulika Lodge, arriving in the late afternoon and camping late before landing. The lodge stands out vividly from its surrounding bush because constant watering has created an emerald oasis around it. Here again was a well-equipped, surprisingly comfortable base from which to observe the game, and we decided to start a "viewing run" early next morning.

It was well worth the effort. We saw several elephants and giraffe, stately and statuesque. A giraffe has that air of social standing that goes with the ability to peer down at unwelcome visitors. If a giraffe could speak, it would not talk to the likes of us. There were ostriches, too—gangling off in all directions as if they were pedalling bicycles, with their well sprung, Angouleme legs. And buffalo with their characteristic horns like fugitives from a barbershop quartet. Very Edwardian, buffalo.

Quite unexpectedly, our driver stopped and said we should get out of the bus to see the white rhinos. Having been told that one does not leave one's vehicle and, moreover, that the rhino is not noted for its friendly disposition, "trepidation" hardly begins to describe how we felt. But the rhinos turned out to be semi-tame, with an armed escort and a small boy who obligingly threw rocks at them to make them turn towards the camera. No doubt the photographs will be a bit of a cheat.

Not so the lone bull elephant in Tsavo who trumpeted and charged us a few days later. We were safely in our vehicle and in no kind of danger although the story will improve with time when one's recollection is not clouded by such facts.

Those who know Kenya well had warned that May was not a good month for a visit because "of the rains". Rain means thicker foliage and more difficulty in spotting the elusive species. It also means plenty of water holes away from the lodges and a dispersal of game to firmer ground. From that point of view my tour of the parks was a little disappointing and I have seen far more wildlife on previous trips. But Mount Kenya and Meru Mulika Lodge were well worth visiting, as was Paradise Lake. I certainly hope to return to all of them.

The wildlife of Kenya is probably the country's best tourist asset and needs to be protected at all costs. The lesson of preservation has, I think, been thoroughly learned by outsiders. It is the people of Kenya who need more convincing. And their tourism asset is the coastline, and I spent some days in and around Mombasa looking at developments along the Indian Ocean beaches. I shall write about that, and about the cost of getting to Kenya, in my next article.

rhino killing elephants for ivory, rhinos for horn.

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John Carter



There are plenty of elephants to see in the game parks—perhaps too many for their own good.

Food Stirring sauces

Blended or flavoured butters and cream sauces give the luxury touch to summer vegetables. Quickly prepared too, like the vegetables they accompany, they require simplicity in order to preserve the delicate flavours.

Perhaps the Danes have the best method of all, they serve a bowl of whipped butter sauce. For this they simply heat the required amount of butter until light and fluffy, using a metal spoon dipped there frequently in hot water. Serve in a separate dish for guests to help themselves. Butter whipped in this fashion melts quickly into hot vegetables and gives them a delicious flavour. It is particularly good for asparagus and ideal for hot globe artichokes, when the butter should be spooned into the centre—where the "choke" has been removed—and can then be used for dipping the base of each leaf.

But many vegetables respond well to the combination of butter and other flavours. As the French beans come into season, and especially the runner beans that follow, serve them with the following onion butter. Prepare and cook the beans as normally and then drain. To the hot saucepan add 1 oz butter and 1 onion finely chopped. Fry gently for a few moments until the onion just begins to brown. Then return the beans to the pan, toss in the onion and butter and serve. The combined flavours are delicious and yet so easy to do.

If any sauce at all is served with summer vegetables, it needs to be very light and deli-

cate in flavour. There is no thicker method of making such a sauce than to use soured cream. The bought ready-soured cream is made from fresh cream specially treated, rather like yoghurt, to give it a sharp, fresh flavour. Just stir into the contents of one carton of soured cream a teaspoon each of finely chopped chives and parsley and a seasoning of salt and pepper. Heat gently until warm and pour over hot new potatoes, broccoli, or best of all broad beans. You can make a sauce in the same way using fresh double cream, but you will have to add a squeeze of lemon juice just to sharpen the flavour.

A hollandaise sauce, normally very tricky to prepare, is quick and easy to make on the blender. Serve hollandaise sauce with hot asparagus or broccoli. Place three egg yolks in the blender container, add one tablespoon lemon juice and a seasoning of salt and pepper. Cover and blend for a moment. Heat 4oz butter until very hot and begin to bubble, then switch blender speed to high and gradually pour the butter onto the egg yolks through the hole in the centre of the blender cap. It takes about 30 seconds for the sauce to become thick and fluffy. Heat this sauce for a short time before serving, if you pour the mixture into a jug and stand the base in a saucepan of warm water.

For asparagus, a white butter sauce is a little more complicated than just melted butter. Not a sauce to make for two. Peel and chop one shallot—shallots have a milder flavour in a delicate sauce than onion—and plate in a saucepan with one

tablespoon of wine vinegar. Heat until the vinegar has almost evaporated—it will do this fairly quickly—then draw off the heat. Whisk in 4oz chilled butter which has been cut into small pieces. Add the butter a piece or two at a time. As the butter softens it takes on the texture of thin cream. Serve at once.

Clarified butter is butter with the salt, moisture and curd extracted and is an excellent non-stick fat for shallow frying. Good for vegetables and for frying delicate foods like trout. It also adds much to the success of making omelettes. Prepare 4-8oz butter at a time, it keeps several weeks in the refrigerator. Melt the butter over gentle heat until the frothing subsides. Pour it into a basin and leave until cold. When it is firmly set, carefully scrape away the top layer which contains the salt to use for buttering green vegetables or potatoes. Loosen and lift out the cake of butter, leaving behind any liquid or curd at the bottom of the basin. Heat the pan with the butter until quite clear and sizzling. Pour into a clean dry basin and store in the refrigerator.

Butter prepared like this is the kind to use for preparing *Buttercrisp new potatoes* a delicious method of cooking new potatoes that is quite unusual and a pleasant change from boiling them.

Where possible choose a lidded frying pan for cooking, it is important that the lid lie evenly in one layer. Scrub or scrape 1-1½lb small even sized new potatoes and dry them well. Melt 2oz butter, preferably the

clarified butter, in a pan wide enough to take them in one layer. Add the potatoes and turn them so that they are well coated in the butter. Cover the pan with the lid to allow the potatoes to cook gently over low heat for 20-30 minutes. Shake the pan occasionally to turn the potatoes and they will become crisp and golden brown on the outside and soft inside. Drain off the heat, sprinkle with salt and serve.

Katie Stewart

Good Food Guide Down Mexico way

Mexican cuisine is as disconcertingly sui generis as most things about Mexico—just one aspect of the country's odd blend of two different cultures. Though garlic-breathing Spanish colonizers invaded their influence, the deepest traditions spring from the Aztec and Mayan past, to yield the *tacos* and *tamales*, *enchiladas* and *mole* that make Mexico's cooking distinct from that of the rest of Latin America—except from the so-called Mexican food you find in the southern United States or in London. Chili con carne, for instance, is pure Texan, and the present writer spotted it only once on a menu inside Mexico—in a snack-bar for *gringos* tourists. As for Soho Mexican, it tends to stray ever farther away from the real thing than does Soho Spanish.

Not that the best national cooking is easy to find even inside Mexico. Much of it needs such long and subtle preparation that Mexico, alas, must be added to the long list of countries—beginning with Britain—where the restaurant connoisseur should seek an invitation to a private home rather than rely exclusively on restaurants, whose quality varies hugely. Visitors' reactions will be partly a matter of individual taste; some dishes are cauterizingly chilled, others come with the blandest of sauces. Even the common *torrillo* which Mexicans use as bread (a thin corn pancake with a slightly acidic taste—no kind of Spanish omelette) can be either delicate in flavour or dry and rubbery, partly dependent on whether it is hand or machine made.

Mexicans of all classes seem to spend much of the day eating snacks and bit-bits in public—the pavements of the poorer districts are non-stop barbecues where people huddle around the braziers and cauldrons of sweet-stewed, if you really do like Mexican eats, visit the huge covered Mercado Libertad in Guadalajara: after the million-mile of ponchos, silks, pottery, leatherwork, basket-work, metalwork and the rest of the gaudy display of the world's leading folkcraft nation, you enter a hall half the size of Earl's Court with mile-upon-miles of little unpartitioned snack-bars or *fondas* that parade their

streaming cook-pots as in peasant Greece, and are crammed with guzzling faces from morning till late at night.

The clash of smells stupefies. Piles of mangoes, papayas and brightly coloured cakes lie on the counters, and the air is green with sugarcane cakes known as *alegrías* (pleasures). Old Indian women are endlessly playing *pata-cake* with lumps of dough—the true way to make *torrillo*. Pretty Indian serving-girls peep at you from behind their eyes as you pass *Enchiladas*, *Señor? son buenas!* and fix your eyes with their brilliant black eyes.

After this daily carnival, it seemed an anti-climax to seek out one of the white, posh, Casadores chain of restaurants in the city. Instead, we went to the little Los Pinguinos near the cathedral for *tacos* and *pozole*. The ubiquitous *taco* is simply shredded meat, cheese, lettuce and anything else you fancy on a *torrillo* and fried crisp in oil, properly made, as here, it can be a pleasant hors d'oeuvre, but if the *torrillo* is stale or the cooking indifferent (as generally happens in the big American-style eateries) it is dreadful. *Pozole*, a splendid Guadalajara speciality, is a thick soup of maize that has been first soaked in lime juice till it flowers into hominy. To this there is added the diced of brave King Cuauhtémoc, the slender thigh of young captive warrior; but now they put in scrag of pork instead. You can also add chopped raw vegetables, or the condiment of chopped chili that appears on every table.

Another good and cheap eating-place in Guadalajara is the *Farrillita Suiza* (Swiss Girl), one of a chain that exists also in the capital; the name applies not only to the rustic chalet-like décor but to the cheese fondue element in the cooking. Cheese, along with garlic, sugar, pork and chicken, was unknown in Mexico until the Spaniards brought it, but is now a common ingredient in the *chorizo suizo* (grilled with cheese and wrapped in *torrillo*) and *quesadillas* (*tacos* made with cheese, charcoal-grilled, followed by *brides* of *torrillo*), which we tried at the *Farrillita*, where this we went at 1 a.m. to listen to the captivating cacophony of the *mariachi* musicians and to drink the national firewater, *tequila*, the national way—that is, before the dawn of *torrillo*.

With our meals we drank excellent Mexican lager, nearly as good as the best German—Mexican wines are few and poor, and wine is never drunk with Mexican food. One local drink worth trying once, is *pulque*, the whitish fermented juice of the maguey plant, mildly alcoholic—good when fresh, foully sour when not. Or there are superb fresh fruit juices; at Morelia, on our drive back to Mexico City, we stopped at a kind of fruit-juice bar, piled high with large local pineapples, papayas, oranges and so on, where an electric machine was pulpulating them into the most delicious drinks we have ever tasted.

The city of Mexico (population 12 million) is the world's largest after Tokyo and New York and has the best table d'hôte of foreign restaurants, including a "Piccadilly pub" with over-ripe Yorkshire pudding. Gringo colonization in the chain-etered field is very blatant, and on every main street there looms the shadow of Aunt

Taste-Freeze, or something called "Big-Boy de Mexico". Poor Mexico, as the saying almost goes, so far from gastronomy and so close to the United States. But fortunately, some clever Mexican restaurateurs have managed to marry modern American chain-restaurant techniques to their own cuisine with results as respectable as those, say, of *México* or "Les Drugwest". The *Santa Anita* *fonda* in Mexico City offer good national food.

Of the few expensive restaurants in the capital providing Mexican cooking at its best, we especially liked El Refugio, a quiet place in the Zona Rosa—the elegant entertainment district which is a cross between Soho and the Via Veneto. We started with *ceviche*, a delicate cocktail of raw fish, cooked by marinating in lime juice, with various herbs added—a dish common to many parts of the Latin American western seaboard. Then we tried chicken with *mole poblano*, one of the best-known Mexican specialities: *mole* is sauce, and this variant, the best, is from Puebla and includes 25 ingredients, the most unusual one being chocolate. For salad we tried *nopalitos*, made of boiled cactus pads with a complex seasoning; interesting, you might say. No tourist would ever leave Mexico unless he has not merely sat under a cactus but eaten one.

A cheaper but equally authentic place for Mexican food is the *Fonda de Pato*, behind the Chateau Royal Hotel. Here we tried another very common snack, *tamale* (corn meal moulded round bits of meat, wrapped in corn husks and steamed); it is usually either horrid or, as here, very palatable. The soup of chicken and chili was also good, and not as bizarre as its Aztec name, *Xochitl* (pronounced *Schöchtle*), might suggest. *Carne asada a la Tapatense*, another staple dish, was a strip of tender beef lightly marinated and charcoal-grilled, served with those inescapable Mexican garnishes: *guacamole*, *enchilada*, *frijoles refritos*. The first is a thick salad of beans and avocado—apparently one of Mexico's gifts to civilization, together with the tomato, chocolate, and turkey. The second is chili wrapped in *torrillo* and the ressource of Mexico. The third is fried mashed pink beans.

Mexican meal-times are even odder, by our standards, than Spanish ones. Lunch starts at two, is very copious, and is liable to drift on till about five. Later Mexicans take a light supper of *pozole* at all restaurants packed all afternoon are often empty in the evening. This is especially true on Sunday, day of the great Latin family lunch. We took a young Mexican girl one Sunday to the Arroyo restaurant at Tlalpa in the wealthy southern suburb—a vast restaurant with like place, pulsating with large noisy families, with chefs roasting meat at open ovens all around us and hawkers trying to sell us roses or cheeses or other things. After all this *mise-en-scène*, the food was nothing special, though we did rather like the *coronitas* (chunks of roast pork with lots of crackling). We also opted for a well-known Mexican delicacy, *cristallada*. "What were they? Blushing, the girl said they were from a bull, and a part of its anatomy that she did not possess herself. Served merely like brains. (Next time—Morocco.)

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GARDENING

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Sportsview

World Team Tennis, a lusty babe struggling for life

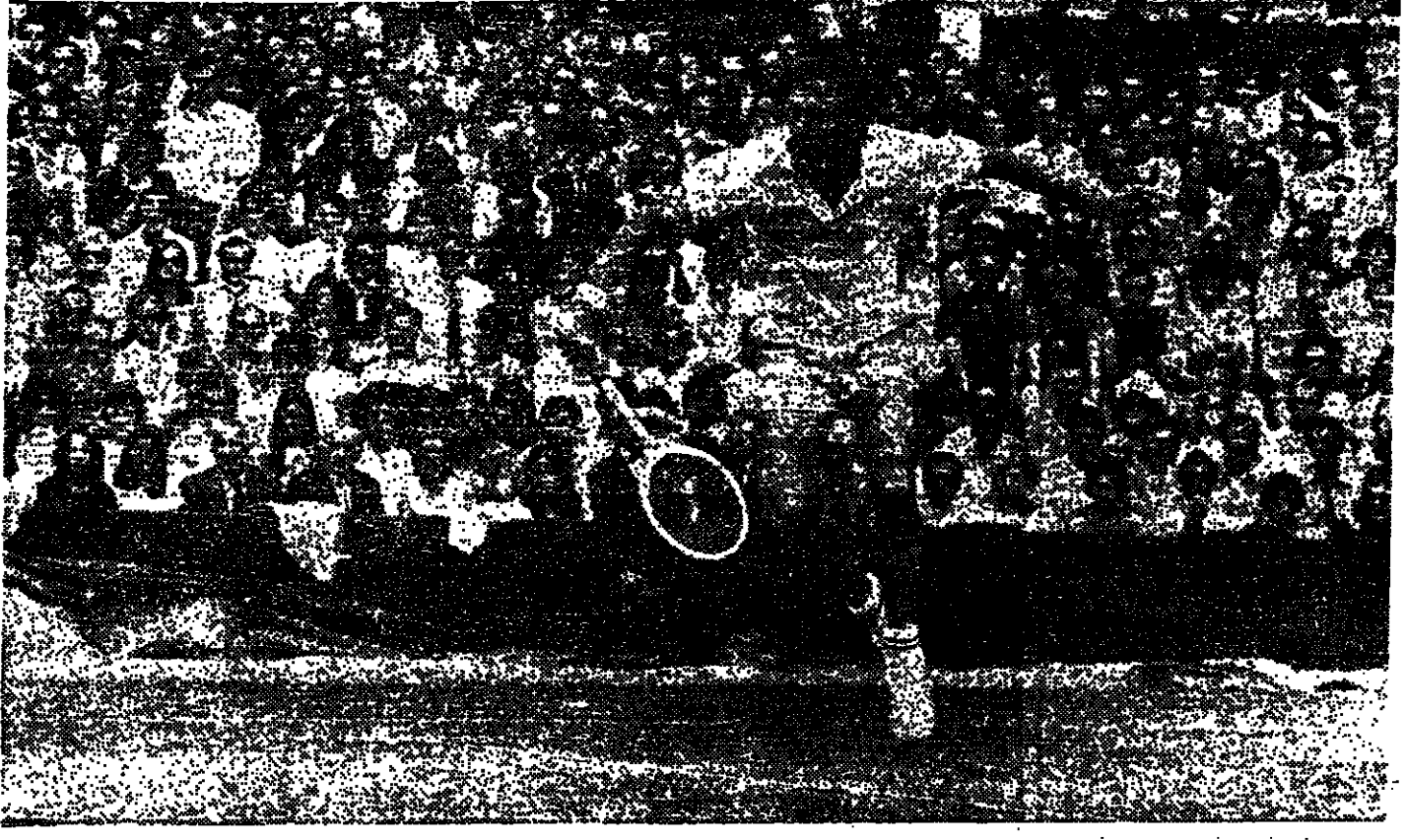
European tennis is in a state of turmoil. At a time when the leading players would ordinarily be flocking here for the traditional tournaments...

Kodes and Stan Smith (present and former Wimbledon champions) Arthur Ashe and Bjorn Borg, the Swedish wonder-boy...

Philadelphia is lucky to have Mrs King. But what about the other teams? The Houston Oilers also have a gill-edged draw in John Newcombe...

Power-sharing is still the only way forward for Ulster

The Irish always maintain that there is no Irish problem, only an English problem. But can anyone believe that after the events of the last few years...



John Newcombe is used to playing before capacity crowds at Wimbledon, but the scene is rather different in the inter-city league.

George Hutchinson

China visit can do Mr Heath nothing but good

The warm and indeed ardent reception accorded to Mr Heath in China seems bound to have appreciable political consequences at home. The reports of his welcome have served to remind us that the remains exceedingly well thought of abroad.

Was Nehru really so misguided?

Many foreign observers, including diplomats, concluded rapidly too rapidly that Pandit Nehru was a Westerner in Indian dress. But the truth about his character was probably more complex than the article published in The Times on the tenth anniversary of his death last Monday suggested.

Rich passages from the brave old days of The Thunderer

Documents illuminating the early history of The Times, when 'The Thunderer' was being forged, have been presented to the Archives of Printing House Square. In particular they fill in details of the career and methods of Thomas Barnes, handsomely but handily figure who edited the paper from 1817 to 1841...

Lord Gore-Booth

While this represented a considerable concession, like most initiatives in Ireland, it was too little and too late. The Council of Ireland could only be reached on the principle of unanimity and, therefore, by the Northern Ireland Assembly as a whole.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Educational policy and democracy

From Mrs Margaret Perry and others
School derives from staff who are fresh, humane and approach the boys as personalities; such staff would not subscribe to Dr Boyson's fictions.

From Mr J. Stanley Heath
Sir, - When it might be better not to toe the line. I would like to congratulate Ronald Butt on his article about Highbury Grove School and the Inner London Education Authority.

Further, Mr Butt's article has very little relevance to the school as it exists. The school just isn't like that. It is an error of judgment to take Dr Boyson at his own estimate. He has been successful as a journalist in PR man. This has helped the school in winning local confidence and we are grateful for this.

Decision on Iranian

From the Iranian Ambassador
Sir, In the report in your issue of May 21 under the headline "Challenge to Callaghan decision on Iranian", the allegations of certain persons whose opposition to Iran is well known were quoted without any attempt on your part to verify them.

As reported in the Morning Star of May 21, Mr Wilson has linked his failure to get the desired answers to his question in the House of Commons to the issue of Iran's aid to the Government of Oman in crushing the rebels of Dhofar whom he calls "forces of liberation".

Moats with crocodiles

From Mr J. M. Megan
Sir, Sir Douglas Bask's remarks in his letter "Moats with crocodiles", which appeared in The Times on Wednesday, May 29, are flippant and unnecessary. They contribute nothing to the problem of crowd control at all.

It would appear Sir Douglas Bask is completely uninterested in the reasons why violence at our football matches is an ever increasing problem. As an ardent supporter of Manchester United Football Club I have seen some of the worst types of violence in one match alone. I saw a policeman kicked in the head with steel capped boots whilst his dog was punched to a state of semi-consciousness.

As a first step I would suggest a meeting of the EEC and Extra Foreign Ministers in Lisbon. It would be a useful gesture of solidarity if nothing more. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY J. C. KERR, 52 Castlegate, Jedburgh, Scotland.

An artist and his levels

From Mr E. Andrew Freeth, RA
Sir, R. J. C. Kerr ("An artist and his levels", Friday 27) was luckier than another - I am of mine, who was working up north. He watched him at work on a landscape, as she moved away a woman made a remark in which Os and As were included. She said to her little girl: "Ah, but I can't do owt else!" Yours, R. ANDREW FREETH, 27 Eastbury Road, Northwood, Middlesex.

The contents of stately homes

From Mr John Harris
Sir, You publish the Duke of Bedford's letter (May 20) at a most apposite moment. Just now the future of the country house is a problem that concerns me, Mr Marcus Binney and our colleagues, preparing Gone, Gone, Gone: The destruction of the country house 1875-1975, an exhibition intended to launch European Architectural Heritage Year.

The photographic survey of destruction will be a fearful experience, for no one has ever surveyed the extent of loss in the black years between 1920 and 1939, and 1945 and 1955. The worst of architectural damage was done in the years 1940-50. There is a general feeling that with millions visiting country houses their future is buoyant and the situation is a healthy one. Alas, this is not so, and we await with trepidation Mr John Comber's report on the country house problem, commissioned by the Historic House Owners' Association, to be published by the British Tourist Authority.

The wealth tax is only one of the causes of the situation. It is now more pressing than it was when Sir Ernest Gowers was appointed in 1948, to "consider what general arrangements might be made for the preservation, maintenance and use of houses of outstanding architectural interest which might otherwise not be preserved including where desirable the preservation of a house and its contents as a unit".

They were that the Historic Buildings Councils should compile lists of outstanding houses of an importance over and above the normal grade I and grade II, with the idea that such designation would attract special qualifications for financial assistance; that if owners opened their houses to the public they should have relief from income tax

The troubles in Ulster

From the Reverend John Stewart
Sir, I am fully aware that the British press has been saturated with the Irish situation to the point of fatigue of the reading public. Nevertheless, the voice of moderate opinion and assessment has not at any time managed to get through. I was a Labour Party member in the Assembly elections who stood on reconciliation, power sharing and community government, but not on the Council of Ireland part of the Sunningdale agreement.

Let it be fully understood, regardless of a few loud voices on the Loyalist side, the power sharing proposals were not only accepted in principle by all. No one in Northern Ireland denies that both communities must live, and share government together. It was within this situation, that when the vote regarding the Council of Ireland was taken in the Assembly that the crisis developed. Mr David Bleakley, the only member of NILP, did not vote for the acceptance but tried to get both sides off the dangerous road by unsuccessfully proposing an amendment. This failed and the constitutional strike took place.

Most people within the province were against the action taken by the Ulster Workers Council, however there were more than a few within the Protestant majority. Irresponsible statements from SDLP politicians at various meetings that the Council of Ireland must be a step towards a united Ireland, far outweighed comforting reassurances from both Faulkner and Westminster. The return of eleven members to Westminster, was an anti-Council of Ireland vote more than an anti-community government vote in Ulster. The tide of changing consensus was marked in the return of the Rev Robert Bradford to Westminster from South Belfast. This constituency was known as the middle class, stock broker, belt that was noted for its very high concentration of moderate opinion.

It was natural that the support of the strike became a massive expression right across every section of the Protestant population. Moderate people, including doctors, clergy, academics from the university, and industrialists, met together with all the leaders of reconciling organizations, in an effort to urge the government at Westminster to end some of the real work to resolve the strike. They also met the Ulster Workers Council and heard their fears and views. However, this must be said, that it became almost as difficult for these people to talk to Government Ministers as it was for the Ulster Workers Council. It was not just the concern of moderate opinion, that talks should be initiated, but a more important concern, that the power sharing executive would collapse over what was at heart, the useless remains of a Council of Ireland clause in the Constitution Bill.

MR SLATER PREFERS CASH

Mr Jim Slater has had one of the most successful careers in the history of London since the war. His outstanding quality is his intelligence; he has a first class mind which he has chosen to apply to finance. He is not really an industrialist and his excursions into industrial management have not been particularly successful. It is in the management of money and investments he is outstanding. This makes his latest pronouncements on the future of the City, Walker Securities particularly interesting and particularly disturbing. So far this year he has realized £50m of the group's assets. His cash holdings are now approaching £200m. He defends his position on the grounds that cash is the optimum investment "for the major part of Slater, Walker's sources. If Mr Slater values cash so highly, how can any of us rest of us dare to own anything but money?"

A BILL TO MAKE TRUTH ACTIONABLE

The laudable motive behind the Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill is to make it possible for persons who have once been convicted of a relatively minor offence but have "gone straight" subsequently to shed the burden and stigma of their previous criminal record. The Bill, which is making its third attempt to become law, (its first time and a supervening election having put paid to its previous efforts) provides that some convictions can become "spent" after a certain number of years have elapsed, and the offender be considered rehabilitated. A sliding scale is laid down, allowing, at the one end, a person convicted but given a non-custodial sentence, to become rehabilitated after five years, and at the other, a conviction resulting in a sentence of thirty months requiring a ten-year period to become spent.

The effect of rehabilitation would be that the individual would not have to divulge his previous conviction to a prospective employer, or state it on application forms for insurance, passports and the like. Another consequence would be that a court before which he might appear would in many cases not know of his spent conviction. This provision has aroused bitter criticism, notably from the Justices' Clerks Society last week, on the grounds that a court cannot know how to properly deal with an offender unless it knows the full facts about him.

The Bill also contains a clause allowing a person to sue for defamation if his "spent" convictions are disclosed. Unlike other instances of alleged defamation truth would be no defence.

LOCAL AND LAY ACCOUNTABILITY

It was only a month ago that the National Health Service underwent the most drastic reorganization of its structure since its creation: so it may seem a little soon for Mrs Castle to be talking about altering it again. The proposals published this week, however, should not shake the new system unduly, and some of them are likely to improve it. The new three-tier arrangement designed to bring to an end the functional divisions between hospitals, general practice and community services was broadly acceptable to both Labour and Tory opinion, evolved as it had been after a long series of Green Papers and consultative documents. It is still far too early to guess how well it will work. The main charge that the Labour Party brought against it was that it was not democratic enough, and it is this defect that yesterday's paper seeks to amend.

The problem has been to introduce an element of local accountability to a service where there is a very strong resistance to the idea of town hall control. The prejudice of doctors against being council employees may not be as lively as it was in Aneurin Bevan's time, but it is still too great for any arrangement on that basis to have been acceptable. The alternative was to set up largely nominated bodies in close contact with local govern-

Divorce in Italy

From Count Capponi
Sir, You also seem to have fallen a victim to the (quoting your leader May 15), "deplorable misleading propaganda" to which Italians have been subjected in the referendum on divorce. Admittedly the Italian social, religious and political scene is highly complex and this may also help to explain your incorrect view of events. The fact is that for some Italians who voted against divorce the issue was not a religious one at all, for many only indirectly so, and for others a purely political anti-communist vote. The reasons for which quite a few nominal Catholics and agnostics voted against divorce are very much the same as those put forward by your 1965 Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce: the supporters of these

fast prices and the demand for money can rise faster. In this situation those who hold cash are certain to lose part of their purchasing power, but those who do not hold cash are liable to be sharply squeezed. The private individual is almost certainly well advised to balance his position, so that he has as little short term debt and as substantial physical assets, which will at least survive inflation, as he can manage. Yet there is a deeper lesson than this. In its early stages inflation expands trade by bringing the supply of money up to the level of full employment. Once that point has been reached further inflation rewards successful speculation but provides diminishing rewards for production and the creation of real wealth. In this way it tends to discredit the financial system by emphasizing non-productive speculation as against production. Mr Slater's company, now that he has turned it largely into cash, is merely a paper palace, and the paper in which it is built is rapidly declining in value. The fearful thing is that he is quite likely right in his decision.

which mention is made that a living person had once been convicted of a relatively minor crime. All these issues will no doubt be considered during the Bill's committee stage this month and there has been some talk of an amendment creating a defence of "public interest" to a suit for defamation. There may, at this time, however, be some Parliamentary resistance to giving the press a concession of this kind when legislation is being formulated to deal with its allegedly excessive intrusions into privacy. In any event, a public interest defence is not necessarily the answer. It would be open to the objection, as in the field of contempt, that in many cases it would be impossible to know beforehand whether a court is subsequently going to hold that a particular publication was or was not in the public interest.

Mr Alexander Lyon said during the Bill's second reading that if the defamation clause were omitted, the Bill would be "without meaning". That need not be so. Most people whom the Bill is designed to help would still be helped, by not having to disclose their spent convictions. The press's interest would be confined to a small minority, and only where some greater issue was involved. The right of the press to serve the public interest in these cases should not be taken away; this is particularly important when offences of fraud or company malfeasance is concerned—a man who has once been guilty of such an offence should certainly not be free to enjoy a good character in soliciting investment. Experience has shown that to be the only safe way to protect an often gullible public.

Aims of Industry

From Mr Michael Ivens
Sir, On May 30 you report Mr R. A. Hughes of the bolliermakers' union as implying that Aims of Industry provide black lists on employees to employers and contractors to keep "tight check on employees". Aims of Industry does not, and will not undertake this kind of thing. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL IVENS, Director, Aims of Industry, 5 Pough Place, Fetter Lane, EC4, May 30.

Valuing art treasures

From Mr C. J. Fell
Sir, With respect Mr Leggett and Mr Levy are unfortunately wrong.

views being further comforted by the knowledge that the agnostic and anticlerical rulers of Italy from 1861 to 1929 had always consistently upheld the principle of indissolubility in marriage, aware that Italian society rested (and rests) almost exclusively on the family. As for the Catholic hierarchy's (rather lukewarm) support for the anti-divorce front it will not seem too strange if you stop to consider that any permissive law directly or indirectly undermines traditional Christian morality, apart from the gross violation of the concordat of which the Italian state was guilty by bringing in divorce without previous consultation with the Holy See as prescribed by the Lateran Treaty. Of course "expensive annulments" are provided for the wife and children after a declaration of nullity, "casualty" etc, etc.

belong to that collection of half truths and falsehoods of which most political propaganda is made up. It takes into no account the very extensive use of legal aid in church courts, nor the fact that wives and children are the responsible of civil law, not canon law, whose enactments in that direction would not be recognized by the Italian courts. Whatever the political outcome of the victory of the communitarian divorce front one thing is certain: the rift in the Italian church between the "orthodox Catholic" majority and the "progressive" minority who voted for divorce has widened probably beyond repair. Yours truly, CAPPONI, Via dei Sardi, Florence, May 18.

Bloodstock

Special Report



December Sale at Newmarket is strongly international in character, as a high proportion of the animals bought are destined to go abroad.

Centuries of skill behind sales

Mr Mortimer is nothing between the Ural Mountains and Newmarket to check a searing wind from the east, and conditions at the December Sales used sometimes to be spartan. However a spacious and up-to-date sales ring was opened in 1965. Equipped with ample seating, central heating and air conditioning, it is particularly appreciated by the many visitors from abroad.

Tattersalls used to hold its main yearling sale at Doncaster, during St Leger week. This arrangement lasted from 1838 to 1958 when Tattersalls felt unable to accept the new terms offered by the Doncaster Corporation for the use of the Glasgow Paddock. The loss was Doncaster's since St Leger week has never been quite the same since.

During the last century Tattersalls used to conduct sales at the principal studs. At a sale of Middle Park yearlings in 1865, Captain Matchell bought Hermit, one of the most famous of all Derby winners, for 1,000 guineas. The next yearling to enter the ring was Markman, who likewise realized 1,000 guineas and was runner-up to Hermit in the Derby.

Today, it hardly makes news if a yearling is sold for 50,000 guineas. In 1890 Tattersalls conducted a sale of yearlings from the Royal Stud at Hampton Court. Amid intense excitement La Flèche, a filly by St Simon, was knocked down to Baron de Hirsch for what was then an extraordinary sum of 5,500 guineas. The normally impassive Mr Edmund Tattersall was sufficiently moved to call for "three cheers for Baron de Hirsch and success for the Royal Stud".

La Flèche won the 1000 Guineas, the Oaks, the St Leger and the Gold Cup. She would have won the Derby, too, but unfortunately her jockey was just beginning to display symptoms of insanity

and performed in a highly eccentric manner.

In 1900 that bold plunger Mr Robert Stievier was reckoned out of his mind when he paid 10,000 guineas for Scipio as a yearling. Knowing that his cheques were not invariably regarded as acceptable, he had taken the precaution of going up to Newmarket with £20,000 in ready money. In 1902 Scipio won every classic race except the Derby but her owner was in dire financial trouble by the end of the season.

In 1971 two yearlings from a stud in Ireland were sold for 117,000 guineas and \$1,000 guineas respectively. Neither has yet won a race. In 1973 Mr Ravi Tikoo paid 72,000 guineas and 71,000 guineas for two six-year-olds by Habibat, both from the Irish stud of Mr and Mrs W. F. Davison. In spite of the high turnover achieved at Goffs bloodstock sales in Ireland, many leading Irish breeders still prefer to send their yearlings to be sold at Newmarket.

The big prices often realized by high-class yearlings must be taken into consideration with the huge fees charged for the services of leading stallions. There is not a penny of profit on some yearlings for the seller until the bidding has passed the 10,000 guineas mark.

The main yearling sales conducted at Newmarket by Tattersalls are the six-day October Sale at the beginning of that month and the five-day Houghton Sale a fortnight later. It is on these two sales that many owners, who do not breed their own horses, rely to buy the animals that are destined to carry their colours.

The catalogue for the October Sale is long but less distinguished in quality than the catalogue for the Houghton Sale. Many of the yearlings offered at the former sale can be politely described as being of the bread-and-butter variety. At the end of October, Tattersalls hold a six-day mixed sale at Newmarket, the feature of which is the large number of horses in training that are offered. Most of these are bred in Ireland, this sale is of prime importance to National Hunt owners and trainers looking for strong-running steeplechasers capable of jumping hurdles and fences. Because of their scarcity, such animals are anything but cheap.

The last big Newmarket sale is in December. Until now it has been a one-day affair. In future it will begin on a Thursday and the first three days will be devoted solely to foals. After the Sunday break there will be four days for disposals of mares, fillies and yearlings. Nowadays, with the rapidly rising costs of maintaining a

horse in training, buyers are more selective.

Yearlings of undistinguished pedigree and poor conformation are hard to sell, the more so because the prospect of a decline to accept market records, and place unrealistic reserves on animals more likely to end up in a tin than in the winner's enclosure.

The present market is a healthy one, with a strong demand for well-made yearlings, but little for inferior animals. Too many yearlings lack individuals with little knowledge, experience and patience, jumped on to the bloodstock-breeding bandwagon a few years ago. Many are now dropping out of the business and their departure need not be regretted. There are far too many bad horses in circulation.

At the Houghton Sale, business is a good deal livelier and a smaller proportion of yearlings are led out unsold. Here the big buyers, looking for top-class yearlings, are Mr David Robinson, that self-made, self-contained millionaire, accompanied by a platoon of expert advisers known as "the Robinson Rangers".

Mr Robinson has two private trainers and 126 horses. Lady Beaverbrook is happily still undeterred by a record of success that is somewhat unimpressive considering the money she has spent. Other bold buyers are Mr Tikoo, Captain Marcos Lemos and one or two agents acting on behalf of Japanese clients.

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Syndicates cut stallion losses

by Lt-Col R. H. Hastings
chairman and managing director, British Bloodstock Agency

Foreigners find it difficult to understand the economics of English breeding and racing—a distinct contrast to the situation in France where the stake money in the Paris area is a temptation to ownership of racehorses.

Well-bred fillies always fetch a steep price even if their racing record is undistinguished. Long-established and successful owner-breeders are assured of a good annual income by selling three or four fillies that they do not need for their own stud.

It was at the 1967 December Sale that Vaguely Noble, then a two-year-old, was sold for 136,000 guineas. He subsequently won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and is now a leading stallion so was cheap at the price.

However lengthy the catalogue, the sales at Newmarket are always run smoothly and the time schedule is remarkable. The administrative work in first classifying, then assembling, maintaining and selling in six days more than a thousand horses, is considerable but Tattersalls has the advantage of two centuries of experience backed by a small and highly competent staff.

It is rare for anything to go awry, and if it does there is always the senior partner, Captain Kenneth Watt, with his professional skill and his exquisite manners, to put things right.

Much of the export business is not conducted through Tattersalls, but by private sales negotiated by the many bloodstock agencies in operation. For instance it is seldom that a stallion of real consequence is led into the sale ring.

In recent years, though, many stallions have been exported to Japan, which has been the destination of seven post-war winners of the Derby. A glance at the Bloodstock Breeders Review shows the important role played by British-bred stallions not only throughout Europe, but North and South America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Interested in foals are seldom concerned with the other types and vice versa. By separating the types, buyers are not committed to spending an entire week at Newmarket.

There is a worldwide demand for British bloodstock and the December Sale is strongly international in character. A high proportion of the animals bought destined to go abroad. In this way racing makes an annual contribution towards the balance of payments.

Foreigners find it difficult to understand the economics of English breeding and racing—a distinct contrast to the situation in France where the stake money in the Paris area is a temptation to ownership of racehorses.

Well-bred fillies always fetch a steep price even if their racing record is undistinguished. Long-established and successful owner-breeders are assured of a good annual income by selling three or four fillies that they do not need for their own stud.

It was at the 1967 December Sale that Vaguely Noble, then a two-year-old, was sold for 136,000 guineas. He subsequently won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and is now a leading stallion so was cheap at the price.

However lengthy the catalogue, the sales at Newmarket are always run smoothly and the time schedule is remarkable. The administrative work in first classifying, then assembling, maintaining and selling in six days more than a thousand horses, is considerable but Tattersalls has the advantage of two centuries of experience backed by a small and highly competent staff.

It is rare for anything to go awry, and if it does there is always the senior partner, Captain Kenneth Watt, with his professional skill and his exquisite manners, to put things right.

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Dollar power helps American breeders to buy supremacy

first American-bred to win the Derby was Pierre Lorillard's Bois in 1881. The victory hailed with delight throughout the United States as a news of it caused the ension of business on the York Stock Exchange. Particularly pleased were thousands of Irish-Americans who regarded the success of Ironsides as a swifly-aimed blow against English arrogance and self-esteem.

The next American-bred Derby winner was Mr R. S. Clark's Never Say Die in 1954. A son of the British-bred Nasrullah, Never Say Die was ridden by Lester Piggott, then 18 years old.

Two American-bred Derby winners in a race that had first been run in 1780 were a shocking worry about, but in recent years it has been quite a different story. There were American-bred Derby winners in 1968 (Sir Ivor), 1971 (Mill Reef) and 1972 (Robert). There was also Nijinsky (1970) who was actually foaled in Canada.

Sir Ivor, in addition, won the Grand Critterium, the 2000 Guineas, the Champion Stakes and the Washington International at Laurel Park; Nijinsky the Dewhurst Stakes, the 2000 Guineas, the Irish

Sweeps Derby, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the St Leger; Mill Reef the Coventry Stakes, the Grand Critterium, the Dewhurst Stakes, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the Prix Ganay and the Coronation Cup. Robert was the only horse ever to beat the great Brigadier Gerard, a feat he accomplished in the Benson and Hedges Gold Cup at York.

Apart from Nijinsky, there were American-bred St Leger winners in 1967 (Ribocco), 1968 (Ribero) and 1972 (Boucher). The brothers Ribocco and Ribero both won the Irish Sweeps Derby too.

American-bred fillies have made less impact than the colts but Never Too Late II, who won the 2000 Guineas and the Champion Stakes in 1964 with Baldrick II, won the 1000 Guineas and the Oaks in 1960. Hula Dancer won the 1000 Guineas and the Champion Stakes in 1963. Long Look the Oaks in 1965.

In 1973 the European two-year-old scene was dominated by American-bred colts and fillies. Apalachee, trained by Mr Vincent O'Brien, looked a champion in the making when he won the Observer Gold Cup at Doncaster. Not all that far behind him in merit was his stable-companion Cellini, winner of the Dewhurst Stakes. The principal autumn event for two-year-olds is the big Cheveley Park Stakes, was won by the American-bred Gentle Thoughts.

In France the three main two-year-old races, the Prix Robert Papin, the Prix Morry and the Grand Critterium, were won respectively by Lianga, Nonalco and Mississippian. All three are American bred. Outstanding among the three-year-olds in France were two great American-bred fillies, Allez France and Dablia. Dablia made mince-meat of her British rivals in the £100,000 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes but Allez France beat her every time they met.

There are several reasons for the present American supremacy. The power of the dollar has played its part. American breeders have been able to afford to buy the best bloodstock from all over the world and have never faced the necessity for parting with the best of their own.

The late Aga Khan's first three Derby winners, Blenheim, Bahram and Mahmood, were all exported to America, where Blenheim and Mahmood were brilliantly successful. The sale of these three horses represented a serious loss to the British bloodstock industry.

From Ireland the Americans acquired Nasrullah and Royal Charger, both sires of Nasrullah, whose racecourse performance were not always endearing, proved one of the greatest stallions of this century. One of his sons, Bold Ruler, was also a sire of outstanding merit. Royal Charger's sprinter, also became a leading sire in America and from him are descended both Sir Ivor and Robert.

Two of the best European horses of this century, Ribot

his care that were not bred in America. The combination of the best American blood and Mr O'Brien's superb professional skill suggests that more hard times are in store for the British thoroughbred.

R.M.

Selective buying has improved the quality of the American thoroughbred apart from stallions many high-class mares and fillies have been imported as well. Credit must be awarded, too, to the policy adopted by most American breeders and owners. They place high value on the accuracy test and are firmly of the opinion that the primary function of a racehorse is to race.

In consequence good American horses are not wrapped in cotton wool as the best British horses so often are. They are run apart from North and South America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

English owners, with an eye on stud values, tend to hustle a classic-winning three-year-old off to the stud as soon as opportunity is acquired. A reputation once acquired must not run the risk of damage through defeat. No doubt a good many horses are broken down in America but those that survive to win big races are tough, fast and courageous.

American courses tend to be uniform in character. They are oval in shape, varying from a mile to a mile and a half round. They are tamped and drained. The horses, therefore, are accustomed to racing on a smooth, level surface. The gradients and varieties of surface provided by European courses are unknown. The essential quality required is speed.

Speed is needed for the dash from the stalls to secure a good position on the first of the bends, and a bit of extra speed is required for use in the fairly short straight. Most of the big money races are run over distances from a mile to a mile and a quarter. The Kentucky Derby is run over a mile and a quarter and so is the American Coaching Club Oaks. The "Triple Crown" series for colts and fillies are both completed by mid-June so that animals likely to develop quickly are in most demand.

The best modern American horses, therefore, tend to be precocious physically and at two years often look older than they really are. At three, though their pedigrees may be of dubious quality, their class, speed and courage frequently enable them to last out a mile and a half. Their characteristics make them formidable opponents.

The impact of American-bred horses on racing in Britain has been augmented by the fact that Mr O'Brien's powerful stable in Ireland is almost entirely composed of American-bred horses, most of them well bred. This season he has only four horses under

As Britain grows poorer and emerging countries become stronger economies, higher prices are paid for potential stallions and mares; and if the worldwide success of American horses, bred from English antecedents, does not distract too many traditional clients, the export trade will continue to flourish. It will be greatly to the advantage of racing and breeding, because so many horses that the country could ill afford to lose left these shores.

In the past two years, with the American demand can survive.

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More owners than ever in spite of the expense

Peter Towers-Clark of Stud and Stable says that there are three reasons why more owners are buying horses than ever in spite of the expense.

One is the rise in the price of horses. The other is the fact that horses are now being bred for a wider range of purposes than ever before. The third is the fact that horses are now being bred for a wider range of purposes than ever before.

At the end of all this, the horse may win one small race or nothing at all. Last year a mere 6 per cent of horses that ran earned more than £100,000. In 1973, money earned by winning a race (but not yet on place money) 211 per cent on the flat and 244 per cent over the jumps go to the trainer, jockey and stable.

The Racehorse Owners' Association estimates that in 1973 the owners subsidised racing for about £10m. Why are the owners subsidising racing? At the end of the day, the owners today than there have ever been?

It may be, especially under National Hunt Rules where the prizes are smaller and there are virtually no prospects of selling a horse for stud at enormous prices. The pure enjoyment of owning a horse, of the hope and expectations and (just sometimes) of seeing it win. For others there may be the social prestige or the idea of betting on it, although those owners who imagine that ownership will give an automatic entry into the secret of the trainer's other horses in the yard will soon be disillusioned.

Among the higher-income groups, especially in times of increasing government expenditure on income and property taxes, there is also the considerable added incentive that racehorse ownership can provide an entirely tax-free capital gain, something which is obtainable through virtually no other commodity.

Let me give two examples of capital appreciation. In 1970, Sir John Thorn, head of the electrical business, bought his first yearling for 9,000 guineas. Named High Top, he won more than £53,000 in stakes in two seasons and was then sold as a stallion at a capital value of £336,000.

After his victory in the 1973 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, four-year-old Rheingold was sold at a capital value of £1m after earning £13,000. Three years earlier, Barry Hills, the trainer, had bought him for 3,000 guineas.

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Insurance has much to offer to the wise

Lord Carbery says that insurance is one of the most expensive in the world; it is also the sport of open chance and good luck. The owner may pay £1,000 or £100,000 at yearling sales for a well-bred colt which could win the Derby, or just scrape home in a selling race. The trainer can peak condition in the horse in peak condition only to have him put out the race by a cough or injury.

Not surprisingly the risks increase in proportion to the rewards. A stallion can prove congenitally infertile or impotent. One well-known stallion, which was syndicated in the United States for \$3.5m, recently failed his fertility tests and there is no certainty that he will ever come right.

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The owner depends on his horse winning races to see a return on his investment and the trainer's interests are identical as not only does his reputation depend on the success of the horses under his care, but also he must feel under a moral obligation to justify the large training fees he is obliged to charge so that at least his owners feel they have had a run for their money.

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Research station's aid

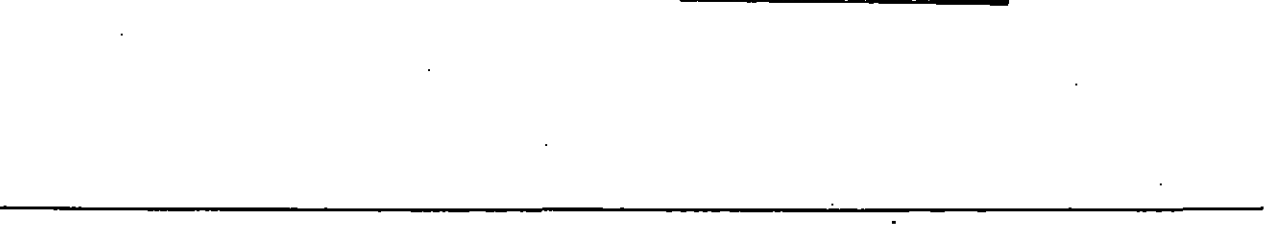
Research station's aid on wobbler disease, ringworm and the way ringworm spreads, chronic back pain, cleft palate surgery, the passive transfer of immunity to foals with the assistance of local veterinary surgeons) and much else.

Research station's aid on wobbler disease, ringworm and the way ringworm spreads, chronic back pain, cleft palate surgery, the passive transfer of immunity to foals with the assistance of local veterinary surgeons) and much else.

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RECORD YEAR

for British horses abroad

British-bred and conceived horses again enjoyed a record year of successes in foreign countries in 1973, winning a total of 3,804 races worth £5,166,724. In addition, the sires and dams of many other winners abroad were bred in Britain.

Many of these overseas winners were bought at Tattersalls sales, Newmarket, the source every year of one third of the winners of all races in the British Isles.

Tattersalls sales remain the most important single source of winners at home and abroad.

These are the sales dates in 1974 (subject to alteration)

JULY 10-11 Mixed Sales SEPTEMBER 9 Mixed Sales
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 5 October Yearling Sales
OCTOBER 15-19 Houghton Yearling Sales
OCTOBER 28-31 Autumn Sales of Horses in Training and Mixed Sales
NOVEMBER 1-2 Autumn Yearling Sales
NOVEMBER 28-30, DECEMBER 2-6 December Sales

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THE TOP TEN

British-bred and conceived winners abroad:

	Races won	Value
1. France	788	£2,558,313
2. Italy	903	£832,113
3. U.S.A.	260	£331,078
4. Japan	49	£285,106
5. Belgium	330	£179,971
6. Germany	219	£167,446
7. Malaya	154	£144,891
8. Greece	139	£142,922
9. Norway	158	£75,089
10. Venezuela	30	£70,689

Source: Statistical Record.

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 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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Stock	Price	Chgs	Yld	Company	Price	Chgs	Yld	Company	Price	Chgs	Yld	Company	Price	Chgs	Yld	Company	Price	Chgs	Yld
BRITISH FUNDS																			
85-88	Trust	100	10.0	85-88	Trust	100	10.0	85-88	Trust	100	10.0	85-88	Trust	100	10.0	85-88	Trust	100	10.0
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN																			
100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0
LOCAL AUTHORITIES																			
100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0
FOREIGN STOCKS																			
100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0
DOLLAR STOCKS																			
100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS																			
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INSURANCE																			
100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0
INVESTMENT TRUSTS																			
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PROPERTY																			
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TEA																			
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100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0
SHIPPING																			
100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0
MINES																			
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS																			
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100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0	100	Trust	100	10.0

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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS



The best £2 you'll probably ever invest. ... TIMES 1000

America agrees to EEC's tariff compensations for enlargement of Community

on Roger Berthoud... Last December the EEC offered tariff cuts and other concessions on 32 products... Americans, and may not be satisfied with this outcome.

Minister will be offered few retail price cuts

By Hugh Clayton... Food retailers will tell the Government on Monday that they cannot guarantee to cut prices permanently on even 15 of the products it proposed last month.

Property fears fuel continued slide in equities

By Terry Byland... Equities suffered a further round of losses on the London stock market yesterday. Nervous selling from smaller investors pushed market indices down to within 5 per cent of the previous low point for the year.

Boost for Nixon trade reform Bill

om Our United States... President Nixon said today at the tariff reductions agreement "represents a major step toward improved Atlantic relations."

Moratorium plea for Lyon Group

By Anthony Rowley... Unsecured creditors of the Lyon Group are being recommended to accept a six-month moratorium on payment of the debts owed to them by the property concern.

Nestlé aims to take full control of Findus UK

By Maurice Corina... The Government is considering whether to give approval to the sale by J. Lyons & Co of its joint interests in the Findus frozen foods business to Nestlé, the other partner.

Onassis threat to Olympic Airways contract

By Mario Mediano... Mr Aristotele Onassis, the shipowner, has warned the Greek Government that he intends to renounce his Olympic Airways contract tomorrow unless the Government takes over the bulk of the company's increasing losses.

US airlines' troubles may lead to world clash

From Frank Vogl... An international argument may develop from the continuing financial troubles of Trans World Airlines and Pan American Airlines.

BLMC plans car factory in Midlands with 5,000 jobs

By Clifford Webb... British Leyland has submitted an application to the Department of Industry for permission to build a new car plant at Moon's Moat, a 100-acre site at Redditch near town, Worcestershire.

Ignor Carli sees gold dealings between banks as answer to Italy's problems

By John Earle... Ignor Carli, Governor of the Bank of Italy, said today that Italy's solvency would be assured if gold could be traded between central banks at market-related prices.

\$262m cut in Japanese payments deficit

By Tokyo, May 31... Japan's balance of payments in April continued to show improvement, mainly caused by a decline in capital exports, the finance ministry said.

Fenchurch chief claims bid breaks spirit of City code

By Ian Morrison... Relations between Guinness Peat and its partly-owned subsidiary Fenchurch Insurance, for which it is making a contested takeover bid, worsened yesterday when Mr John Donner, Fenchurch's managing director, sent a letter to shareholders claiming that the spirit of the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers had been "grossly contravened."

How the markets moved

Table with columns: Rises, Falls, and Equities. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

The Times index: 110.56 - 2.28 F.T. index: 276.3 - 5.7

THE POUND

Table with columns: Bank, Buys, Sells. Lists exchange rates for various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.

Wickers loses contract

Vickers said last night that it was "very disappointed" at reports that its Canadian subsidiary had lost a \$118m contract for 422 cars for the Montreal subway system.

New chemicals group

The establishment of a new joint company in Spain between the German group Farberwerke Hoechst and the Spanish chemicals group, Union Explosivos Rio Tinto (ERT), was announced yesterday.

Strike talks fail

The unofficial strike of more than 300 construction men which is delaying work on the Mersey underground loop rail line beneath central Liverpool continued into its seventh week following the breakdown of joint talks which went on for four hours in the city yesterday.

On other pages... Bank Base Rates Table... Unit Trusts: Lawson Gilt and Warrant Fund

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

If you buy a house with a conventional repayment mortgage rather than with an endowment mortgage it is vital that you take out some form of mortgage protection policy which will repay the outstanding capital owed in the event of an untimely death.

A mortgage protection policy is basically decreasing term assurance; for a regular annual premium a sum assured is arranged which decreases in value in line with the reduction in one's mortgage debt.

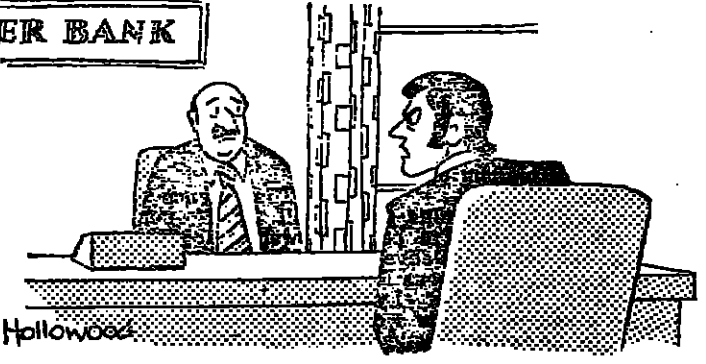
Provided the policy is arranged so that the premiums are paid annually (or more frequently still if that is required) there are no problems. The drawbacks arise when mortgagors decide to pay for the entire cost of their mortgage protection policy in a lump sum at the beginning of the period.

Building societies naturally have a vested interest in borrowers taking out a mortgage protection policy. The single premium type of policy has been and still is with many societies the favourite arrangement they recommend to prospective housebuyers—and the majority of housebuyers will usually accept this advice on the assumption that the society knows best.

However, there are strong arguments against this policy and the annual premium type scheme represents a much better buy. It is, in the first place, a far more flexible type of policy; it can be discontinued easily in the event of changing houses; it can be more easily adapted to fit in with interest rate changes (which affect the outstanding mortgage balance); the relief is spread over the years of the policy; and other benefits, such as family income benefits, can be built on to it.

The final point is that, in the event of an early death, one has only paid premiums for a few years—whereas with a lump sum policy, the premiums have been paid for the entire term, in most cases at least 25 years.

So why do some societies continue to recommend the lump sum arrangements? Admittedly the lump sum rate works out cheaper over a full term, but this is not sufficient to overcome its other drawbacks. On the other hand, societies do receive higher insurance commissions from these schemes.



... and you have the gall to charge me £19.47 for lending you an average of £15.82 since July last. ...

How to handle your banker

In the past I have made mention of the way the Moneygamesman skilfully manipulates his banking affairs to impress everybody not least his own bank manager. However, I think it is only fair that the full splendour of his technique should now be revealed.

His first rule is, of course, that the reason one needs a bank manager at all is to borrow money from him, rather than lend it. It is, therefore, important that this is brought unmistakably to the attention of the manager himself.

If your account is generally in credit what you must do, then, is to plague him about the size, and indeed the actual existence, of the bank charges he levies on you. "You've just given me an average of £36m and you have the gall to charge me £19.47 for lending you an average of £15.82 since July last. ..."

The way the competition is hotting up at the moment, this (the Drop in the Bucket Conscience Galvaniser) is an effective opening attack on a banker.

If, on the other hand, you would rather a borrower than a lender be, then you must follow the Moneygamesman in his escape from the suppliant position of the potential debtor. So soften up the resistance by complaining about the accuracy of statements and/or the non-delivery of the actual cheques you had signed (The Electronic Data Protagonism). Statistics show that there is something wrong with 52 per cent of all computerized statements and, if you just pick a card, any card, you are likely to come up with a complaint.

For example, only last month I found that they had credited me for a day with a little fatter of £200,000. Yes, honestly, I didn't get any interest out of it, of course, but had I mistakenly been debited with a similar amount I wouldn't have been surprised to have been charged at least that amount at the time and it immediately made him placatory and embarrassed.

Hard on the heels of this, call peremptorily for the bank's statement and the assets and liabilities. Since it should be hanging up fresh and new every January 1 and July 1 of each year, this is a trick especially worth doing on January 1 and July 3. The odds are that you will get down the one for the previous half year because they will not have brought it up to date, and if so it is definitely cause for the raised eyebrow and the discreet cough.

With a hit of luck the manager will be ready to pander to your merest whim by this stage, but once you start on about actually borrowing money you may find the atmosphere hardens up a bit, especially if there is no security, as there never is. It is therefore as well to have some proof that you have tried other alternatives first.

My own early and continuing success with the manager of the National Westminster Bank, Baker Street, largely derived from the fact that I explained quite truthfully that before coming to see him for an over-advance I had been to St George's Hospital in an attempt to pawn my body for £25, so that it could be used for the benefit of medical science should I turn my toes up a bit earlier in the proceedings than anticipated. (Burke and Hare's Auto-liquidation).

The attempt at that particular transaction had the elements of failure programmed into it right from the start. It was in 1951 and I was 17. I had already sold my stamp collection—as with all stamp collections, for far less than it was worth—and my body, though a poor thing, was all there was left in the kitty.

But even a buyer's market would have been better than no market at all, because when I presented myself at St George's to the Sergeant on the door and explained my demand, he replied, "Ho, no, we don't do that sort of thing anymore. Ho, no, no, since the National 'Salsh'."

Nowadays anyhow, what with the press and the Money Programme and everybody at every cocktail party you ever go to moaning about the banks and their profits and their inefficiency, getting the manager to feel all guilty and hunted is as easy as taking sweets from a baby, and one need not go to quite such extreme lengths.

But in another sense, the heat is on more than ever now. Whenever you do go into a bank without a stocking over your face these days, you come out, not only with actual cash, but with a unit length, a bit of travellers' cheques, a bit of life assurance, a new will and a fluster of trading stamps into the bargain.

And how about this new Financial Doctor concept whereby the bank manager runs your whole life and does absolutely everything except toss you double or quits for the small change. Fight back: there are all kinds of irritants. A little remark that the Moneygamesman can make here—like, "I thought you'd strip me but this is ridiculous." "I know—if I gave up smoking, drinking and expensive lunches my bank balance would look a hell of a lot healthier," or, "Actually I'm a Financial Christian Scientist."

I would not try pawing him over the body, though. With the kind of collateral they seem to have been accepting recently, he might call your bluff and take it.

Francis Kinsman

Family pay check for wives

Why are women so woefully ignorant about family finances in general and their own finances in particular? A recent survey conducted by Gallup Poll on behalf of the Company, Pensions Information Centre came to the dismal conclusion that most women are not interested in what financial arrangements their husbands have made for them in retirement and at death.

The findings to some extent contradict the impression I gain from readers' letters arising out of articles on the Personal Investment and Finance pages: a rough calculation shows that well over half the letters I receive asking for further financial advice or information do come from women.

However, these readers are clearly in a minority. For the Gallup Poll survey discloses that more than half of Britain's wives have never discussed with their husbands what the family financial position will be when he retires and that just over half the women interviewed had discussed with their husband what their financial position would be should he die.

If it comes to that, the women interviewed were equally ignorant about their own pension arrangements and prospects if they continued working to retirement. (The survey was conducted before Mrs Barbara Castle announced that the State Reserve Pension scheme set up under the Social Security Act, 1973, was not to come into operation after all.)

The staggering statistic here was that only 2 per cent of the women had a precise idea of what their pension entitlement would have been.

But, when all is said and done, pension schemes are the most difficult of subjects to

master and it would have been interesting to see how many of these women's prospective husbands understood their own or their wives' pension schemes. I would not be surprised if a similar lack of knowledge had been uncovered.

What do I find shocking, however, is that there are still so many women in the country who do not have a precise understanding of how much their husbands earn. The survey shows that less than half married women (49 per cent) know precisely how much their husbands earn. Wives in higher income groups are slightly more aware and so are northern wives. And it is encouraging that more young wives (55 per cent) know what the family income is.

As the company Pensions Information Centre reports, there may possibly be resistance on the part of the husband to reveal his financial situation to his wife. The Centre points out, "it is she who is expected to keep up the family standard of living when her husband retires and it is she who has to 'hold the purse strings', should she ever do so."

Financial planning should be, I believe, a family activity but it clearly isn't at the moment. So, with the help of two financial planning consultants—one a married woman—I have drawn up a list of questions as a starting point for wives who

Margaret Stone



Mrs Barbara Castle

Pensions The options open to Mrs Castle

When Mrs Barbara Castle issues her White Paper setting out proposals for the future of state pensions (and perhaps, by implication, occupational pensions), the resurrection of the Crossman scheme, to which I referred in my last article, is by no means the only course open to her.

If something is to be done quickly, there are two possible courses: either to use work which has already been started; or to introduce a structure so simple that very little work is necessary. One possibility being examined is to abandon the whole concept of an earnings-related structure imposed by the state, and to concentrate efforts on raising the level of the flat rate pension to—ultimately—something like half national average earnings, which means at the present time about £20 a week or more.

This certainly represents a structure which could be implemented without delay, although the level would have to be increased by stages to half national average earnings—economic considerations would make it impossible to achieve the full level at once. It also has a number of other attractions, either from the point of view of a Socialist government, or objectively from the point of view of those intended to benefit—as we all are, indeed, ultimately.

Possibly the most interesting aspect, however, is the way this proposal illustrates the change in political philosophies since the war. It is said that the idea has union support; it represents an application of the Marxist principle of providing according to needs (assuming that everyone's basic needs are alike) and collecting according to ability to pay.

The principle of payment according to ability to pay—contributions linked to pay—was introduced by Sir Keith Joseph under the last government. The principle of a flat rate pension, and that the state's responsibility was to provide for everyone's basic needs, originated with the Conservative Government of the 1940s; the idea of national earnings-related pensions was attributable particularly to Mr Richard Crossman, the previous Labour Secretary of State for the Social Services.

Whether it represents a socialist move or not, the introduction of a higher level of flat rate pension, without an earnings-related element but paid for by general taxation contributions, has attractions. Most important, it would solve once and for all this problem of elderly people without enough money to live on. It would not guarantee that pensioners could continue to enjoy the standard of living they had attained during their working lifetimes.

Eric Brut

Motor insurance VAT and your car repairs

Despite the fact that we have had VAT with us for quite a long time, there are still plenty of points not fully appreciated about it—in some cases by those dealing with it every day.

The whole aim of this tax was that it should be much more broadly based than the old tax, and thus should apply to most forms of services as well as goods. Also, instead of being a tax on the supplier of goods or services, it is paid by the purchaser and is merely collected for Customs and Excise, the person providing the goods or service.

Clearly, therefore, all garage and repair charges (other than for fuel, most of which is taxed heavily enough as it is) have VAT added to them. If you are having a normal service, clearly one has to pay the VAT on top of the garage's charge. What, however, is the position if repairs will be paid for by an insurance company?

In the first place, the insurers will want to establish whether one is a taxable person or not—since this can make a difference to the amount which they pay out.

If a vehicle is used wholly or partly in connection with a business which is taxable for VAT, the practical effect is that the owner can include the tax charged by the garage with other "input" tax. This, therefore, can either be set off against output tax which will be payable to Customs and Excise, or (for those whose supplies are largely or exclusively zero-rated) a refund can be collected from the Customs and Excise.

In this situation, therefore, the owner pays the VAT initially, but a full recovery can be made under the VAT system, and the insurers simply settle the repair account, exclusive of VAT. There are special forms for this purpose and, so far, the procedure is running fairly smoothly.

Anybody running a car in a sole private capacity is exempt. This simply means that VAT does not have to be collected. But VAT does have to be paid on the purchase of goods and services, and there is no means of recovering it.

If, therefore, one is exempt from VAT (for whatever reason), one's insurers will simply settle the whole of the account, including the VAT. And, because insurance, also, is exempt, they will not be able to recover the VAT in any way apart from increasing premiums.

A more complicated situation arises in the case of anyone with a car who carries a partially exempt—used who was using the car in connection with the partially exempt business at the time of the accident.

A partially exempt trader has some outputs which are being taxable and some which count as being exempt, and he

John Drummond

Taxation: capital gains Inland Revenue's softer side

Despite moves in the last few years toward tax simplification, the law itself continues to be so complex it is little wonder that inequities and hardship frequently arise.

To be fair, the Inland Revenue is not entirely unaware of these problems and, from time to time, it issues statements on the consequential way it will interpret certain aspects of the law. Capital gains tax regulations with regard to private residences.

We saw in the last article in this series that, to come within the exemption, an individual's house must at some time during the period of ownership have been his only or main residence. If this rule were strictly applied, it would operate rather harshly against those who, because of the duties of their employment, have no option but to live on their business premises.

Such a person may have bought a house in anticipation of retirement, for example, but because of his duties, the concession it does not, on the face of it, qualify for exemption. Fortunately there is a concession here which extends the exemption to those living in the accommodation such as the principal place of residence, caretakers and the like.

If the gain on a sale is to be fully exempt the house must have been the individual's only or main residence during the whole period of ownership. The law at the last 12 months of ownership to be treated as a period of occupation, whether or not the owner was resident, but it says nothing about non-occupation in the early months of ownership.

However, the Inland Revenue takes a concessionary view in the following way. Where an individual acquires land and has a house built on it, and he thereupon goes into occupation of the house as his only or main residence, but he later ceases to occupy the house, the period of ownership of the land up to the date of occupation of the house does not exceed a year (or somewhat longer if there are good reasons for exceptional delay). The Inland Revenue will regard that period as part of his period of occupation of the house as his only or main residence within the terms of the exemption.

The same practice will be applied where an individual purchases an existing house and before moving into occupation as his sole or main residence carries out alterations or redecorations or completes the necessary steps for disposing of his previous residence. This 12 months' grace is particularly relevant when the house market is depressed, and the individual has difficulty in disposing of his original house.

Verá Di Palma

Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Medium and Income Funds (progress this year and in past three years). Outflow Index 1952-5, fall from January 1, 1974:	A	B	A	B	
Target Cleverness	4.1	20.2	Glen Fund	-3.6	-2.4
Brown Shipley	7.2	2.8	British Life	-3.9	-16.7
National Com	3.0	-16.8	L. & G. Tyndall	-4.4	-12.2
National Bond	3.9	-3.2	Buckingham	-4.5	-8.9
National Growth	3.0	-3.2	National Life	-4.6	-19.1
National Gen	1.8	-3.7	National Life	-4.8	-13.8
M & G General	1.2	8.9	Mirilla	-5.1	-12.0
M & G Sec General	0.5	16.0	Mirilla Blue Chip	-5.1	-12.0
Quadrant	-0.5	-7.1	Flect & Ind	-5.3	-8.6
Nation Growth	-0.6	-7.1	Lloyds Bank Sec	-5.6	-17.3
Rowan Securities	-0.6	-7.1	Hill Samuel Sec	-6.0	-17.3
Cedar British	-1.3	-20.4	Mutual Sec Plus	-6.0	-17.3
BL Balanced	-1.4	-4.9	National Group	-6.0	-17.3
Lloyds Life Equity	-1.8	-13.1	Hambro Fund	-6.2	-4.0
Jacot Sector Ldrs	-2.2	-	Family Fund	-6.2	-7.5
Nation Growth	-2.3	-	Cubot	-6.3	-14.2
Nation Growth	-2.3	-	Discretionary	-6.3	7.3
Nation Growth	-2.3	-	Edi Samuel Sec	-6.4	-15.4
Nation Growth	-2.3	-	Pelican	-6.5	-2.2
Nation Growth	-2.3	-	Morgan Grenfell Ins	-6.7	-9.6
Nation Growth	-2.3	-	National Hundred	-6.7	-0.5

	A	B	A	B	
Allied Growth & Inc	-7.0	-10.9	S & P General	-11.5	-15.5
Abacus Growth	-7.0	9.3	Hill Samuel Brit	-11.6	-25.3
Firestone Gr & Inc	-7.0	10.0	Crescent Capital	-11.7	-24.5
Equity & Law	-7.5	-13.4	Schroder General	-12.2	-26.2
Allied Capital	-7.7	-12.7	Oceanic General	-12.4	-25.9
Nat'l Growth	-7.9	-6.3	Nat'l President	-12.4	-25.9
Emblem	-7.9	-2.6	Charterhouse Inc	-12.6	-24.9
Prudential	-8.1	-9.4	National High Inc	-11.8	24.4
Franklin & Co	-8.2	-16.2	High Yield	-12.1	24.4
M & G Trustee	-8.3	-4.1	Mutual Income	-12.1	22.4
Minster	-8.3	-17.3	GT Income	-12.4	-2.4
Barbican	-8.3	-18.6	M & G Extra Yield	-2.4	24.9
S & P Ebor Gen	-8.3	-18.6	M & G Dividend	-2.9	3.8
BIF Second	-8.5	-4.3	Franklington Inc	-3.1	-1.7
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Drayton Income	-3.9	2.8
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Canlife Income	-4.1	-0.9
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Allied High Inc	-4.1	18.0
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	S & P Securities	-4.2	-7.8
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	S & P High Yield	-4.2	0.8
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	High Inc Priority	-4.4	12.2
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Tyndall Nat & Com	-4.7	-6.3
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Key Income	-4.8	-9.6
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Abey Income	-5.0	-
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	S & P Ebor High Ret	-5.1	14.2
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Oceanic High Inc	-5.4	-1.3
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Trinity Income	-5.6	-3.8
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Tyndall Income	-5.6	-3.8
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Abacus Income	-6.1	10.0
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Three Income	-6.1	10.0
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Nat West Income	-6.3	-14.4
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	S Walker High Inc	-6.3	24.1
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Morgan Grenfell Inc	-6.3	24.1
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Hill Samuel Inc	-6.7	-17.9
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Crescent High Disc	-7.7	0.9
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Ionian Income	-8.0	-
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Allied High Inc	-8.2	0.4
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Lloyds Bank Third	-8.4	-6.0
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Union Income	-8.5	2.9
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	Union Extra Inc	-8.9	0.9
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	S & P Scott Income	-9.6	3.5
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	P & W Income	-11.0	-
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	British Life Div	-11.1	7.3
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	British Life Div	-11.1	7.3
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	British Life Div	-11.1	7.3
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	British Life Div	-11.1	7.3
Target Equity	-8.5	-6.7	British Life Div	-11.1	7.3

Round-up New fashion for American funds

Following the launch last week of Slater, Walker's North American unit trust, Barclays Unicorn is also going west with its 14th new unit trust, the Unicorn American Bond Fund. The fund is a conventional managed bond fund intended to produce a steady stream of income from securities and an active trading policy. (The portfolio will concentrate initially on industrial and consumer shares.) It is interesting to note, however, that its starting yield is an estimated 3.5 per cent compared with 2.5 per cent on the New York American's 2.5 per cent year.

The new 9 1/2 per cent British Savings Bond, announced in the Budget, goes on sale on Monday. After five years there is a 3 per cent tax free bonus providing for a gross equivalent return of 10.6 per cent if the bonds are held for the full five years.

Following the present Charterhouse Life Assurance introduced a Convertible Energy Bond and investment in the option of switching at their own discretion into the Charterhouse funds, the Equity and Managed funds.

Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder.

